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Mamillia.

*A Mirrour or looking-
glasse for the Ladies of
Englande.*

Wherein is disciphered, howe Gen-
tlemen vnder the perfect substaunce of
pure loue, are oft inueigled with the
*shadowe of lewde lust: and their firme
faith, brought a sleepe by fading
fancie: vntil wit ioyned with
wisedome, doth awake it by
the helpe of reason.*

By Robert Greene Graduate
in Cambridge.



*Imprinted at London for
Thomas Woodcocke.*

1583.

Malone 575^r



By Robert Greene Graduate
in Cambridge

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To the right honourable his very good

Lorde and Maister, Lorde Darcie of the North,

Robert Greene wisheth long life, prosperous successe,

with all increase of honour and vertue.



Milius Macedonicus (Right honorable) thinking to gratifie Alexander the great with some curious peece of workmāship, waded so far in the depth of his art, as straying curtesie with cunning, he skipt beyonde his skill, not being able to make it

perfect. Who being blamed of Pausanias, for striving further then his sleewe would stretch, answered: that although arte and skill were wanting to beautifie the work, yet heart & wil did polish that part, which lacke of cunning had lefte vnperfect, overshadowing the blemish of disabilitie, with the vaile of sincere affection. Whose answer, as one guiltie of the like crime, I clayme for a sufficient excuse of my follie, that durst enterprise to strive beyond my strength, knowing my selfe vnable, both by nature and art, to bring such a weighty matter to a wise end. For if the fouler is to be condēned offollie, that takes in hand to talke of hunting; or the merchant counted as madde, which medleth with the rules of Astronomic: then may I well be dubbed a dolt, which dare take in hand to discipher the substaunce of loue, that am but a lout; or to shew the force of fancie, which am but a foole. But as there is not a greater cooling carde to a rash wit then want, so there is not a more speedie spur to a willing minde, then the force of ductie: which droue me into a double doubt: eyther

The Epistle.

to be counted as bold as blind Bayard, in presuming too farre; or to incurre the preiudice of ingratitude, in being too slacke; to bee thought vaine glorious in writing without wit; or a thanklesse person forgetting my debt: so hauing free choyse of them both, I thought it but a light matter to bee counted ouer venturous, if I might doe any thing which should shew some part of my due-tie vnto your honour: neyther did I euer care to be counted bolde, if that blemishe might eyther pleasure your Lordship, or els make manifest my good will, whiche alwaies did wishe to be with the formost of your well-willers. But as wishes are of no value, so his will is as vaine, that couetes to pay his debt with a counterfeite coyne: wherein I both finde the fault, and commit the offence. For being greatly indebted to your honour by ductie, for the first payment I offer a peece of work neither worth the wetting nor wearing, the receiuing nor reading, more meete for the Apothecaries pots, then a noble mans hand; fitter for the pedler to rent, then Gentlemen to reade. Yet if the worke be weighed with my simple wit, it is downe measure; and if my good will might serue for a weight, although the stuffe bee light, yet there are few woulde be heauier in the ballance. So that hoping of your honours wonted curtesie, that you will marke the mynd, and not the matter; the will, and not the worke; I commit your honour to the almighty.

Your Honours humble Seruant,
Robert Greene.

To the Gentlemen readers

of the booke

After that, Gentlemen, I had neither wel furnished nor finished this imperfect peece of woork, but brought it to a bare ende, whether it were for imitation or art, I haue almost forgot, but for one it was, I chanced to reade diuers Epistles of sundrie men written to the readers, wherein I found the best learned of them also far drenched in doubt of their disabilitie, & almost fortified for feare that want of skill shoulde be a blemish to their woork, as (thinking a flat confession shoulde haue a plaine pardon) they cal their bookes vanities, shadows, imperfect paterns, more meete for the Pedler then the Printer, toyes, trifles, trash, trinkets. Some comparing the to shoeles, neither worth the tasting, nor eating, so their books, neither worth the reading nor hearing: and yet the worst of them all so perfectly polished with the pumice stone of eloquence, as in them nature and art doe strue for supremacie. If then those learned men doe count their works but counterfoit, that were carued with such curious cunning, and treatmed them trash which were Merchant ware: what shall I call mine, which is of such simple stufte, as it is neither worth the cheaping nor chaunging? Surely I wil leaue the name to the readers gentle iudgement, because I cannot finde one bad enough, that enery one may tearme it as their fancy lea-
deith them. For there is no chaffer so charie, but some will cheape; no ware so bad, but some wil buy; no booke sayll but some will both reade it and praise it; & none againe so curious, but some wil carpe at it. Wel, so many heades, so many wittes, If Gentlemen will take my booke as a toy to passe away the time, and weigh more of my meaning then of the matter, and more of my wil, then eyther of my wit, or the worke; if I say, they shall shew me this curtesie, it shal be both a spurre to prick me forward to attempt further, and a sufficient recompence for my tranell.

Robert Greene.

*Roger Portington Esquier, in commen-
dation of the booke.*

IF Grecia soyle may vaunt her hap and lucky chaunce,
As nurse of Clios clarkely crue, her state & aduance,
Or Smirna boast of Homers skil, for hope of fame,
If royall Rome may reape renowne by Tullies name,
Or Virgils countrie village vaunt that she excell,
Dan Ouids natiue land may strine to beare the bell:
Then Britaine soyle may brauely boast her state in fine,
That she a new Pernassus is, the Muses shrine.
No finer wittes in Grecia rained then Britayne breedes,
No brauer workes in Smirna wrought then English deeds.
If passing port of Poets praise was euer founde
In Mantua, the like is got in Britayne ground.
If Tullie wan the golden spurres of fame by prose,
And reaped in Rome such rich renowne as wel as thoset
Our Authour beautifies this Brittainne soyle: for why?
His stately style in English prose doth climbe the skie,
His filed phrase deserves in learnings throne to sit,
And his Mamillia darkens quite the Frenchmens wit.
Yea if that any haue beene crowned with laurel greene,
This Greene deserves a laurel braunch I weene:
For why? his pen hath paynted out dan Cupids craft,
And set at large the doubtfull chance of fancies drafte:
Yea in such comely colours sure his workes enbost,
As he for English phrase may sit amidst the most.
And thogh he thinks his booke too rude to win such fame,
His foes would say that he by right deserves the same.

Roger Portington.

Mamillia.

The Citie of Padua, renowned as wel for the antiquitie of the famous Uniuerſitie, as alſo for the notable ryuer now called Po, when the Ciuill warres were moſte hot, and the broyles of diſſention ſo ryfe, that the Gothes and Hungarians with ſodaine inuaſion had ſubuerſed the whole ſtate of Italy, was euer ſo fortified with couragious Captaines & warlike Souldiours, and ſo wel gouerned by the prudent pollicy of their Magiſtrate Signior Gonſaga, that they alwayes ſet out the flagge of deſtaunce, and neuer came ſo much as once to parle of peace with their enemies; although Venice, Florence, Sienna, with many other Cities (as Machianell in his Florentine hiltorie maketh report) at the boite Skirmiſhes and fierce Assaults of the Souldiours, accepted conditions of peace willinglye: ſo much preuailed the politique wiſdome of the wiſe Rular. Out of whoſe line by diſcencpliued one Francesco Gonzaga, a Gentleman whome fortune did not onely endue with wealth, but alſo beautified with as great wiſdome, as any of his predeceſſors: ſo that it was in doubt, whether he wanne moze fauour for his wit, or feare for his riches: whether hee were better lyked for his calling, or loued for his courteſie: but ſure whether it were, he had gayned the heartes of all the people. And yet for all theſe golden giſtes of Nature, he was moze bound vnto Fortune, which had beſtowed vpon him one onely daughter, called Mamillia, of ſuch exquisite perfection and ſingular beautie, as the lineaments of her body, ſo perfectly portrayed out by nature, did ſhe w this gorgeous Goddeſſe to be framed by the common conſent of all the Graces: or els to purchaſe Nature ſome great commendation by caruing a peece of ſo curious perfection. For her body was not onely beautified with the outward blaze of beautie: but her minde was alſo endued with the beames of inward bountie, as men were rauiſhed as much with the wonder of her wiſdom,

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as driuen into admiration with the fourme of her feature. But what neede I to discipher her excellent perfection, such nature had so cunningly paynted out the portraiture, both of her mind and body, in such comly colours, as it may suffice for me to say, she was the flower of all Venice.

This gallant Gyfle by her vertuous qualities had made such a stealth in the heart of one Florion, a young Gentleman, which serued as she did in the Dukes court at Venice, that hee reposed his onely pleasure in her presence, and againe her onely contentation consisted in his company, that they were two bodies and one soule, their will and wish was alike, the consent of the one was a constraint to the other, the desire of Mamillia, was the delight of Florion: yea the concord of their nature was such, as no soppes of suspicion, no mistes of distrust, no floades of sicklenes could once foyle their fayth, their friendship was so firmly founded on the rocke of vertue: for this straight league of lpyking was not fleshy flauoy, but a meere choyce of Chastitie. Whereby we may well note the broad blasphemy of those which thinke, because the Lowe cannot touch the fire, but it must burne, nor the Iute claspe the Tree, vlesse it sucke out the sappe: so likewise the greene wood cannot touch the coales, but it must flame, nor the Vine branch embrace the tender twig, but it must consume it: that loue and lpyking cannot be without lust and lasciuiousnes: that deepe desire cannot be without fleshy affection: but this suspicion proceedeth of an euill disposition. This currish misconstruing commeth of a corrupt conscience, they seeke others, where they haue beene hidde them selues: for we may see by experience and manifest examples, that there haue beene euen lewd Louers, which haue contented their disordinate desire, onely with the courteous countenaunce of their Distresse, who although they were caught in the snare of beautie, and altogether vowed vnto vanitie, yet they could so well bridle their affections, that the onely sight of their Ladye was sufficient to feed their fancy. If then the wanton woer, whose stay is but a rotten staffe, can so valiantly resist the Alarmes of lust; may not a faythfull friende frie, in friendship, and freese
in

In such filthy affection, he feruent in goodnesse, and cold in desire: yes Amian and Ignatia: Auficius and Canchia: Amador and his Florinda, are sufficient proofes and presidences of this chaste league of loyall amitie, that we may well thinke, and easilpe perceiue this sacred bond of friendship betweene Florion and Mamillia was altogether founded vpon vertue, and the more it is to be credited, because hee had beene deceiued by the lightnesse of one Luminia, and knew very well, that there was little constancy in such kites of Cressids kind, whose minds were as foule within, as their faces faire without: he had been burnt in the hand, for touching fire without aduisement: he had late enough tasted of that baite, to bee taken in the trappe: he had bin too soze canuased in the Pettes, to strike at euery stale: and hee had trusted too much the shape of the body, to be so soone allured with the bewee of Beautie: yea hee had beene so deepeelye drenched in the waues of womens wyles, that euery sodayne sight was a sea of suspition, as he made a vowe in the waye of marriage to abandon the company of women for euer, and to a solemne oath, since he had wonne againe the fieldes of his freedom, neuer by the leawdnes of loue to enter into bondage. Yet he would not altogether, (although hee had cause with Euripides to proclaime himselfe open enemye to womankind) seeme so absurd a Sophister, to inferre a general conclusion of a particular proposition, nor be counted so iniurious, to condemne all of lightnesse, for ones leawdnes; nor to shewe himselfe such a moodelesse Aminius, to say all were Triples, because he found one halting: No, no, he knew all hearbes were not as bitter as Coloquintida; that all water was not infectious, though some were pestilent; that as there is a chagable Polipe, so there is a stedfast Emerauld; that there was as well a Lucrece, as a Lais; as well Cornelia as Corinna; as constant a Penelope, as a fleeting Phania; and as vertuous a Mamillia, as a vicious Luminia: so that as he detested yone for her folly, he embraced the other for her vertue: insomuch that hauing himself escaped the seas of trouble and care, yet he thought his minde not fully quiet, vntill he might cause his friend Mamillia, to cast her an-

Mamillia.

ker in the port of Tranquillitie. For after that he had made a Metamorphosis of himselfe from a Courtier of Venice, to a Countreman in Sienna: from the waues of wickednes, to the calme seas of Securitie: from the castle of Care, to the pallace of pleasure: from the heath of Deauines, to the haue of Happines: yea, as he thought, from hel to heauē: yet he could not haue a quiet conscience, til he might see her of the same sect, & as deadly to hate it, as he did loth it: so that he wroth her a letter, wherein he counsayled her to follow his example, which shee hauing receiued, and read, the force of his friendshippe, on the one side so perswaded her, & the rule of reason on the other side, so constrained her, that she concluded to abandon the Dukes Courte for euer, and so eschewe the bayte wherein was hidde such a deadly hook, to abstaine from y^e pleasure, which in time would turne to popson, to giue a final farewell to that condition of life, which at length would breede her confusion. And therefore hauing obtayned leaue of the Dutches, came home in haste to her fathers house in Padua, where she had not remayned long, beefore diuers young Gentlemen drawn by the passing prayse of her perfection, which was bruted abroade through al the Citie, repayred thither all in general, hoping to get the goale, & every one particularly perswading himself to haue as much as any, wherewith to deserue her loue: so y^e there was no Feather, no fangle, Gem nor Jewell, Duch nor Ring left behinde, which might make them seemely in her sight: yea some were so curious no doubt, as many Italian Gentlemen are, which would euen correct nature, where they thought shee was faultie in defect: For their narrow shoulders must haue a quilted Dublet of a large size: their thinne belly, must haue a coat of the Spanish cut: their crooked legges, a fitt sloppe; their smal shankes, a bombast hose, and their dissembling mind, two faces in a hood: to wax with the Moone, and ebbe with the sea: to beare both fire and water, to laugh and weepe all with one winde.

Nowe amongst all this courtly crew, which resorted to the house of Gonsaga, there was a Gentleman, called Phari-
cles,

cles, a youtch of wonderfull witte, and no lesse wealth, whome both nature and experience had taught the old proverbe, as perfect as his Pater noster, he that cannot dissemble, cannot lyue: which sentence is so surely settled in the mindes of men, as it may very wel be called in question, whether it belong vnto them as an inseperable accident, or els is engrafted by nature, and so fast byed by the bone, as it will neuer out: for they will haue the cloath to be good, though the lynning be rotten ragges, and a fine die, though a course thread: their wordes must be as smooth as oyle, though their heartes be as rough as a rocke, and a smiling countenaunce in a frowning minde. This Pharicles, I say, sayre enough: but not saythful enough, a disease in men, I will not say incurable, crauing altogether to cropp the buddes of her outward beawtie, and not the fruites of her inward bountie; forced rather by the lust of the body, then enticed by the loue of her vertue; thought by the glose of his painted shew, to win the substance of her perfect minde, vnder his fine cloathes to couer his clawes, with the cloake of curtesie to conceale his curiositie. For as the birdes cannot be enticed to the trappe, but by a stale of the same kind, so he knew well enough, that she, whose minde was surely defended with the rampire of honestie, must of necessitie haue the onfet given by ciuilitie. He therefore framing a sheepes skin for his wolues backe, and putting on a smooth hide ouer his Panthers panch, vled first a great grauitie in his apparell, and no lesse demurenes in his countenaunce and gesture, with such a ciuil gouernmēt of his affection, as y he seemed rather to court vnto Diana, thē bow his seruice vnto Venus. This Gentleman being thus set in order, wanted nothing but opportunitie to reueale his minde to his new Mistresse, hoping that if time would minister place and occasion, he would so reclaime her with his faigned eloquence, as she should lease vpon his lure, & so cunningly cloake her with his counterfeit cal, as she should come to his fist: for he thought himselfe not to haue on al his armour, vnlesse he had teares at command, sighes, sobes, prayers, protestations, vowes, pilgrimages, and a thousand false othes to bind euery promise.

Q. qm me
min laue
vivre

X
X

Mamillia.

While thus he made his traine, Gonzaga, as his custome was, once a yeere inuited all the youth of Padua to a banquet, where, after they had taken repast, there was no talke but of the beawtie of Mamillia, vntill euerye man tooke his Distresse to tread the measures.

But shee knowing idlenesse to bee the nource of Loue, and thinking him halfe madde, who fearing fire, would put towne into the flame; or that doubting of drowning, would swimme in the Sea; conueied her selfe closely from that wanton company alone into a garden, intending by solitarinesse to auoyd al inconuenience, as her presence among the lustie brutes might haue procured. Pharicles, who now thought tyme and place conuenient to discouer his minde, sat quite beside the saddle: for perceiuing the absence of his Distresse, his heart was in his hose, and he stood, as if he had with Medusas head beene turned to a stone. Thus nipped on the pate with this new mischaunce, he determined to returne home in hast to bewayle his happe: but as nothing violent is permanent, so his sodaine soze had a new salue. For as hee passed through the court, he espied Mamillia, reading alone in the garden, whose sodaine sight so reuiued his daunted mind, as that he paced vnto her, and after he had curteously giuen her the Salue, interrupted her on this manner.

Distresse Mamillia, although my rashnes merit blame, in presuming so farre to trouble your studye, yet the cause of my boldnes deserueth pardon, sith it cometh of goodwill and affection: For where the offence proceedeth of loue, there the pardon ensueth of course: But if you thinke the faulte so great, as remission cannot so easely be graunted, I am heere willing, that the heart which committed the cryme, shall suffer the punishment due, and peeble to bee your slaue for euer, to kneele at your Shryne as a true seruaunt in parte of amendes.

Mamillia hearinge the Gentlemanne in suche tearmes, although somewhat abashed, payde him his debte in the same coyne.

Paister

Maister Pharicles, although your sodaine arriuall did not greatly hinder my study, I thinke it did not greatly profite your selfe: so that your absence might haue more pleased you, and better contented me. And where you say the offence proceedeth of good will and affection, I am not so madde to thinke, that the hearb Sifimbrium wil sprout and sprigg to a great branch in a moment: that the colde yron will burne at the sight of the fire: but hee that will iuggle must playe his seatcs vnder the boorde, or els his halting will be spied. And where in recompence of your fault, you proffer your seruice, I will haue no Gentlemen my seruants, vnlesse for their Liuerie, I should giue them a changeable suite: and therefore if your market be ended, and your deuotion done, you haue as good leaue to goe, as to come.

Pharicles perceiuing the frumpe, as one that was maister of his occupation, serued her againe of the same sauce.

Gentlewoman, in that my arriuall did not greatly hinder your studies, I thinke my fault so much the lesse: although proceeding of your curesie, rather then of my good happe: but if I had knowne my absence might haue pleased you, my presence should not haue troubled your patience: and though the hearbe Sifimbrium growes not to a great branch in a moment, yet the tallest blade of Spattania hath his full height in one moment: and if the Iron burneth not at the sight of the fire, yet the harde stone Calcir, which can be bruised with no mettall, melteth with the heate of the Sunne, and is resolved into licour. As for my iuggling, if it may be spied, it argueth the more good will, and lesse deceite: so that if I halte, I am a starke lame Lazar, and not a counterfeite Triple. For my Liuerie, if I may be your seruant, I passe not what couler it be, so it cometh of your proffer, and not of my desert. Thus, as I haue nowe begunne my market with buying my bondage, and selling my freedom, finding the ware I looked for, but the choyce so charye, that no price will bee sette, hoping the champion will in time make a chaung of his chaffer for my coyne, I humbly take my leaue.

Mamillia.

Phaeticles presently departing unto his chamber, left Mamillia still in the garden, musing on the Gētleman's sodaine motion, doubting whether his words were faithfull or flattering, in earnest or iest: so that somewhat scorched with the fire of fancie, she entred with her selfe into this meditation.

Oh Mamillia, what strange alteration is this? what sodaine change, what rare chance? Shall they, who deemed thee a mirror of modestie, count thee a patterne of lightnes? Shall thy staid life be now compared to the Camcleon that turneth himselfe into the likenes of euery object: or likened to the Fullers Dill, which euer waxeth worse and worse: to the hearbe Phanaces, whose bud is sweete, and the fruite bitter: to the Ravens in Arabia, which being young haue a pleasaunt voyce, and in their age a horrible cry? Wilt thou consent vnto lust, in hoping to loue? Shall Cupid claime thee for his captiue, who euen now wert vowed a chaste virgin? Shall thy tender age be more vertuous, then thy ripe peeres? Wilt thou verifie the Proverbe, a young Samaria: or the Diuell? What? Shall the beauty of Phaeticles change thy mynde, or his filed speech bewitch thy senses? Wilt thou yet thinke the castle wanteth but scaling, that yeeldeth at the first shot; and that the bulwarke wanted but batterie, that at the first parle betomes Prisoners? yes, yes, Mamillia, his beauty argues inconstancy; and his filed phrases, deceite: and if he see thee wooon with a worde, hee will thinke thee lost with a wynde: he wil iudge that is lightly to bee gained, is as quickly lost. The hawke that commeth at the first cal, will neuer be stedfast on the stond: the Niesse that wil be reclaýmed to the fist at þ first sight of the lure, wil baite at euery bush: the woman þ wil loue at the first looke, will neuer be charge of her choyse. Take heede Mamillia, the finest scabberd hath not euer the brassest blade; nor the goodliest chest hath not þ most gorgeous treasure: the bell with the best sound, hath an yron clapper: the fading apples of Tantalus, haue a gallant shew, but if they be toucht, they turne to Ashes: so a faire face may haue a foule minde: sweete words, a sower heart: yea rotten bones out of a paynted Sepulchre: for al is not gold that glysters. Why? but yet the Gem is chosen

chosen by his hue, and the cloth by his colour: condemn not then
 Mamillia, before thou hast cause: accuse not so strictly, without
 tryall: search not so narrowly, till thou hast occasion of doubt.
 Yea but the Mariners sound at the first, for feare of a rocke: the
 surgion searcheth betimes, for his surest prooffe: one forerwit is
 worth two after: it is good to be ware, when the acte is done too
 late commeth repentance. What is it the beautie of Pharicles
 that kindleth this flame? Who more beautifull then Iason? yet
 who more false: for after Medea had yelded, he sackt the foete,
 and in lieu of her loue, killed her with kindnesse. Is it his wit?
 who wyser then Theseus? yet none so traitterous. Beware Ma-
 millia, I haue heard them say, she that marries for beauty, for
 euery dramme of pleasure, shall haue a pound of sorrow. Choose
 by the eare, and not by the eye. Pharicles is sayre, so was Paris,
 and yet tickle: he is wittie, so was Corfiris, and yet wauering.
 No man knowes the nature of the hearbe by the outward shew,
 but by the inwarde Iuyce, & the operation consistes in the mat-
 ter, and not in the name. Yea but why doe I stay at a straw, &
 skip ouer a blocke? Why am I curious at a Gnat, and let passe
 an Elephant: his beauty is not it that moueth me, nor his wit &
 captayne which shall catch the castle, such the one is momen-
 tary, and the other may be impaired by sickness. Thy faith and
 honestie, Pharicles, whereof all Padua speaketh, hath won my
 heart, and so shall weare it: thy civility without dissimulation,
 thy sayth without fayning haue made theyr breach by loue; and
 shall haue their entrance by law. Well Mamillia, the common
 people may erre, and that which is spoken of many, is not euer
 true. Who so praysed in Rome of the common people & Senat,
 as Iugurth? yet a rebel. Who had more voyces in Carthage
 then Aeneas? yet tryed a stragler: who in more credit with the
 Romaines the Scipio Africanus the great: yet at length so so
 halting. The Foxe wins the fauour of the lambes by play, and
 then denoures them, so perhaps Pharicles shewes himselfe in
 outward shew a demi God, whereas who tries him inwardely,
 shall finde him but a soleinne Saint. Why? all Padua speakes
 of his honestie, yea but perchance he makes a vertue of his need,

feminine
 color
 post facto
 le re-

Mamillia.

and so layes this baulmed hooke of fayned honesty, as a luring bayte to trappe some simple Dame. Why? can he be faithlesse to one, that haue beene faithfull to all? The cloth is neuer tryed till it come to the wearing: and the linnen neuer shrinkes, till it comes to the wetting: so want of liberty to vse his will, may make a restraint of his nature: and though hee vse faith and honesty to make his marriage, yet the perhaps that shall try him, shall either finde he neuer had them, or quite forgot them. For the nature of men as I haue heard say, is like the Amber stone, which will burne outwardly, and freele inwardly: and like the Barke of the Myrtle tree, which growes in the mountaynes in Armenia, that is, as hot as fire in the east, and as colde as water in the operation. The dogge byteth sojest: when hee doeth not barke: the Onix is hottest when it lookes white, the Sirens meane most mischief, when they sing: the Tyger then hideth his crabbed countenance, when he meaneth to take his pray: and a man doth most dissemble when he speakes fayrest. Try then, Mamillia, ere thou art ent; proue ere thou put in practise, cast the matter ere thou appoynt the medicine, doe all thinges with deliberation, goe as the snail faire and softly, hast makes waste, the maulce is euer sweetest, where the fire is softest. Let not wit overcome wisdom, nor fancie bee repugnant to faith, let not the hope of an husbände be the hazard of thine honesty, cast not thy credite to the chance of an other man, wade not too farre where the foorde is unknowne, rather hyde thy affections with reason, and mortifie thy mynde with modesty, that as thou hast kept thy virginity inuolate without spot, so thy choyle may be without blemishe: know this, it is too late to call againe yesterday. Therefore keepe the memory of Pharicles as needful, and yet not necessary: like him when thou shalt haue occasion to loue, and loue when thou hast tried him loyall: untill then, remaine indifferent.

When Mamillia had vttered these worde, she went out of the garden priuily into her closet, and there to auoyde the inconuenience which might haue ensued of those foolish cogitations, called an old Gentlewoman, which was her nurse, named Adam

Castilla.

*he wash
he wear
or shrink
in the wet*

*in wonder
to flatter*

*if fire makes
eete matter*

Castilla, to beare her company: a Gentlewoman, whose life and peeres were so correspondent, as for her honestie shee might haue tryed the daunger of Dianas caue: So they two together passe the time in honest and mery talke, vntill all the guesstes of Gonzaga had taken their leaue, and departed.

But Pharicles, who all this while had a flea in his eare, & his combe cut with the taunting quippes of his Mistresse, as his fire was the more, his flame was the greater, and not being able so well to rule his lust, as she to hydle her loue, vsed himself for a secretarie, with whome to participate his passions, knowing that it were a poynt of meere folly to trust a friend in loue, such Ouid in his booke *de Arte amandi*, had forbidden that, as principal, and perceiuing very wel, that in such matters two might best keepe counsaile where one was away: entred into these tearmes with himselfe.

O Pharicles, Pharicles, now thou findest it true, which earst thou countest for a fable, that so long the flie dalies in the flame that at length she is burnt; & the birdes Halciones vnder so long in the waues, that at last they are drowned; that so longe the pitch goeth to the brooke, as in tyme it comes broken home: so thou which warming thy fancy at euery flame, and venturing thy selfe at euery waue, art at last burnt with beawtie, and drowning in desire, as it standes in hazards, that either thou returne home broken, or halfe crased. Nowe thou seest venturing, if it bee token of witte, yet is it no signe of wisdom, and that timiditie in loue is a vertue. Nowe hast thou founde Phocas precept to bee fruitefull, that a Louer shoulde proceede in his suite, as the Crabbe, whose pace is euer backward, that though loue bee like the Adamant, which hath vertue to draw: yet thou shouldest be sprinkled with goats blood, which resisteth his operation: that though the face of some fayre dame hath power to incense thy minde, yet thou shouldest take the hearb Lupinar to coole desire. But Pharicles, if thou beest taken, it is no meruaile, if thou beest hurt, it is no pittie: for the Minow that is euer nibbling, and neuer biting, will at length be hanged on the hooke. Thou which didst
C accuse

Mamillia.

accuse so curritishly all women of lightnes in loue, shalt perhaps now condemne thy selfe of leawdnes in lyfe: and thou which in thy choyce wert counted capricious, shalt try thy selfe not to be so curious. What Gentlewoman in all Padua was there eyther so fayre or honest, whose beautie or vertue thou didst not deeme light, esteeming them eyther vnmeete for thee, or thy selfe vnfitte for them: so that eyther thou couldest sooth her with a frumpe, or els lay a loading carde on her backe, should wey a scoffe: and now thou art like to be serued of the same sauce: which, if it happen, those whome thou vsted for a sporte, will eyther thinke thou didst not know thy descant, or els crosse thee for a foole. Why, Pharicles? wilt thou be a preacher? who is so guiltie as he that accuseth himselfe: if thou hast committed the crime, yet let an other finde the faulte. It is a fowle birde defiles the own nest, construe al thinges to the best, turne the stearne the best waye: yea, and if thou haste troden thy shooe awry, it is but a poynt of youth, leaue such foolish examinations of thy crased conscience. Mamillia, yea Mamillia, Pharicles is the marke thou must shoote at: her beautie is the goale thou must seeke to get: her fayre face, her golden lockes, her coral cheekes: to conclude, her christall corpes shadowed ouer with a heauenly glasse: surpassing beautie is the Syren, whose songe hath enchanted thee, and the Circes cuppe, which hath so sotted thy senses, as either thou must with Vlysses haue a speedy remedie, or els remaine transformed. She hath the power to bynd and loose: her comelinesse is the comfortable collise to cure thy rare, her perfection is the lenitiue plaister, must mitigate thy payne: her beauty is like the hearbe Phanaces, whiche reuiuech the dead carcasse. Ah Pharicles is the foundation of thy faith fixed vpon her feature: consider with thy selfe, beauty is but a blisse. Some, whose flower is nipped with euery frost, it is like y^e grasse in India, which is withered before it springeth: what is more fayre: yet what more fading? What more delightfull, yet nothing more deadlye? what more pleasaunte? and what more perillous? Beautie may wel be compared to the Bathes in Calicut, whose streames flow as cleere as the floods of Padus, and whose operation is as pestilent as the riuer Orme. What Pha-

Beauty:

ricles, wilt thou become a precise Pythagoras in renouncing of loue, or a teastie Tianceus in dispraying of beauty? What more cleere then the Cristall? and what more precious? What more comely then cloth of Arras? so what more costly? what creature so beautifull as a woman, and what more estimable? is not the Diamond of greatest dignity, that is most glistering: and the pearle thought most precious, that is most perfect, in colour? Aristotle saith, he cannot be counted happy, although hee had al the vertues, if he want beauty: yea Appollonius an Arch-heretike, and professed enemye against the sacred lawes of beauty, is driuen both by the lawes of nature and nurture, to confesse that vertue is so much the more acceptable, by howe much the more it is placed in a beautifull body. Therefore Pharicles recant, as perceiuing thine owne folly, and make amends to beauty, as guilty of blasphemy: for by dispraise thou shalt reape reuenge, and by praise in hazard to atchieue thy purpose. Cineas the Philosopher was of this opinion, that when the Gods framed beauty, they went beyond their skill, in that the maker was subiect to the thing made: for none so wise, but beauty hath bewitched: none so sober but beauty hath besotted: none so valiant, but beauty hath byn victor: yea euen the Gods themselues haue geuen beauty the superiority as a thing of more force then they were able to resist.

Well Pharicles, such beauty is the price for which thou meanest to venture, vse no delay, for feare of danger: let no fonde reasons perswade thy settled minde, let not the preceptes of Philosophy subuert the will of nature, youth must haue his course, hee that will not loue when he is young, shall not be loued when he is olde. Spare no cost, nor be not afrayte of words: for they are as winde, they which are most coy at the first, are most constant at the last. What a cold confect had the Lord Mendoza, at y^e Dutches of Sauoyes hand: Prietor at his Coluida, & Horatius at his Curiatia? So though Mamillia were something short in her answeres, it signifieth the greater affection, though she made it strange at the first, she will not be strait at the last: y^e greatest offer

Mamillia.

hath but a small Denyall. Well, to conclude, I am fully resolved in my selfe, eyther to winne the spurre, or loose the horse; to haue y^e blossome, or lose y^e fruite: to enioy the beautie of Mamillia, or els to leopord a ioynt. And therefore whatsoeuer learning willes, I will consent vnto Nature: for the best clarkes are not euer the wisest men: whatsoeuer the lawes of Philosophy perswade me, I will at this time giue the raynes of libertie to my amorous passions: for he that makes curiositie in loue, will so long straine curtesie, that either he wil be counted a solemne lutoz, or a wiclesse wooer: therefore whatsoeuer the chaunce be, I wil cast at all.

Pharicles hauing thus made an end, stood in a mase with himselfe, not that it did p^{ro}ceede from any sincere affection, enforced by her vertue: but that his mind was set vpon lust, enflamed by her bewtie.

Which disease I doubt nowadayes reignes in many Italian gentlemen. Whether it be that Mercurie is Lord of their birth, or some other peeuish planet predominant in the calculation of their natiuitie, I know not: but this I am sure, that they rype wittes are so soone ouershadowed with vice, and their senses so blinded with self loue, that they make their choyce so farre without skill, as they proue them selues but euill chapmen: for if she be faire, they thinke her faithfull: if her bodye be endued with bewtie, they iudge she cannot but be vertuous. They are so blinded with the visor of Venus and conceite of Cupid, as they think all birdes with white fethers to be simple Doves: euery seemely Sappho, to be a ciuill Salona: euery Lais, to bee a loy, all Lucrece: euery chatting maydē to be a chaste matrone. These are such as chose for lust, and not for loue; as marry the bodye, and not the mind: so that as soone as the beautie of their Mistres be vaded, their loue is also quight extinguished. But againe to the purpose.

As thus, I say, Pharicles had well eased his minde with this last meditation, because his loue was but a lose kind of likinge, and the fire of his fancie such a slender flame, as the least mislyking showze of shrewd fortune would quite quench it: therefore
he

he had neither care of his choyce, nor feare of his chaunge: but onely fed his fancy with the hope of hauing Mamillia: and rested vpon this point, till eyther occasion or place should serue to offer his seruice.

In the meane time Gonzaga perceiuing his daughter to be marriageable, knowing by skill and experience, that the grasse being ready for the sick, would wither if it were not cut; and the apples being ripe, for want of plucking would rotte on the tree, that his daughter being at the age of twentie yeeres, would either fall into the greene sicknes for want of a husband, or els if she scaped that disease, incurre a farther inconuenience: so that lyke a wise father he thought to foresee such daungers. And deuisinge with himselfe where hee might haue a meete match for his Daughter, thought none so fit as Pharicles, who I say by his crafty cloaking, had wonne the hearts of all the Gentlemen of Padua. Therefore first intending to knowe whether his Daughter could fancy the Gentleman, before hee should breake the matter vnto him, & yet if he doubting he should moue the question, she might conceiue some hope of libertie, and so strayne vpon her owne choyce, went vnto Madam Castilla her nurse, desiring her to moue the motion to his daughter, as concerning Pharicles, & that the next day she should tell him his aunswere. Madam Castilla easily graunted: and departing frō Gonzaga, went vnto the chamber of Mamillia, where she found her solemnly sitting in secrete meditation, vpon the cōtēts of a Letter, which not half an houre before was sent vnto her from her old friend Florion, the tenure whereof wast this.

Dan Florion of Sienna, to

Mamillia in Padua.



Istresse Mamillia, the extreame pleasure I conceiue of your sodaine and certaine departure from the Dukes court vnto Padua, forced me to send you this letter, as a perfect token of my ioy, and your good happe, both thinking my selfe in some credit with you,

Mamillia.

that my persuasions prevailed: and likewise iudging you to bee
 wise, in that you both auoyd danger, and prouide for a storme:
 for it is a great vertue, saith the Poet, to abstaine from plea-
 sure. The courtly life, saith Agrippa, is a glistering miserie:
 for what more pleasaunt outwardly, and what more perilous in-
 wardly? what more delightful to the body? what more deadly to
 the minde? there is the substance of vice, with the baile of vertue,
 there is bondage in the shape of licentious libertie, and care clad
 in a masking coat. Happy, peache this happy art thou Mamillia,
 whose wisdom hath not bin inueigled by wit, nor whose will hath
 not bin enforced by wilfulness: for in obeying the one, thou hast
 escaped danger, & in resisting of the other, thou hast won fame.
 Yea, but the gold, saith some, is tried in the fire, and the ore is
 put into the furnace. It is more honour to keepe the forte being
 assailed, then not besieged: so the credit of a Gentlewoman is
 more, to be honest in the court, then in the countrey, and it pur-
 chaseth more fame to kneele with a chaste minde at the shrine of
 Venus, then at the altar of Vesta. Mamillia, so many heaues, so
 many wits! I speake by experience. The house is more in danger
 of fire that is thatched with straw, then which is couered with
 stone: he is more in danger of drowning, that sayles in the Sea,
 then he which rides on the land. What maketh the theef, but his
 pray? what enticeth the fish, but the baite? what calleth the byrde,
 but the scrapple? what reclaimeth the hawke, but the lure? The
 court, Mamillia, is a whetstone of lust, the baite of vanity, the call
 of Cupid: yea the vicer enemy to virginity: so that in as much as
 virginity is to be esteemed, so much the Dukes court is to be es-
 chewed. But I heare thou art at home with thy father in Padua,
 & that there is great resort of Gentlemen to craue thee in marri-
 age: take counsel, Mamillia, at him which hath bought it. If thou
 hast taken care to keepe thy virginity inuolable, as thy greatest
 treasure: so take both heede and time in bestowing the same as a
 most precious Jewel. Respect not his beauty, without vertue:
 for it is like a ring in a swynes snout: esteeme not his wealth
 without wit, nor his riches without reason; for then thou shalt ei-
 ther choole a fayre Inne with a foule hostesse; or wed thy self to a
 wodden

*in this place
 abstinence
 o m s
 Vesta
 lulu mix*

X

X

woodden picture with a golden coate. Regarde not his byrth,
without bountie: for it wil euer procure statelinesse. Beware of
hot loue, Mamillia, for the greatest flower hath the soonest ebbe:
the sorest tempest hath the most sodaine calme: y^e hottest loue hath
the coldest end: and of the deepest desire oftentimes ensueth the
deadliest hate. But why doe I deale so doubtfully to exhorte thee,
which hast no neede of such perswasion, & sith I both haue heard,
& I my selfe know thy mynde so grafted in vertue, y^e thou wilt
neither like so lightly, nor wauer so lewdly: but either make thy
match wel, or els stand to thy choyce? For she that wil falsifie her
faith to one, will crack her credit for al. Therfore least I should
be tedious, or vnye that which is not needfull, I referre the rest
to your discretion, desiring you to do my commendations to the
rest of my friendes. And so farewell.

Yours in a chaste mynd,

Dan Florion.



After that Mamillia had read this Letter to
Madame Castilla, they fel in discourse of the
vertuous disposition of Florion, who beeing
of tender yeeres, which are subiect vnto lust,
was neuer a professed enimie to Loue: yea the
painted face of Beauty coulde neuer haue pow-
er to enchant his vertue, he had already wel
tyed himselfe to the mast of modesty, to keepe him from the Si-
rens songs of beastly vanity, and had sufficiently defended his
minde with the rampyre of honesty, against the lasciuious cuppe
of Circes sorcerie; that as other Gentlemen of Italy had sworne
themselues true subiects to the crowne of Cupid: so hee had
bowed himselfe a professed souldier, to march vnder the ensigne
of Vertue.

These few words past betweene them, of the good and goodlie
nature of the Gentleman: Madame Castilla, as the Distresse of
her arte, beganne to take occasion of talke with Mamillia, by
the contents of Florions behest: if she should haue abruptly listned

Mamillia.

her, her deuise shold be spied: & so perchance not haue an answer agreeable to his demand: therfore she tried her ou this manner.

Mistresse Mamillia, the contentes of your friende Florions Letter shewes, that eyther the constellation of the starres, the disposition of the Planets, or y^e decree of the destinies, or force of the fates were contrary in y^e houre of his byrth, or els it is not alwayes true, that youth is prone vnto vice; or that tender yeeres cannot be without wanton conditions: for there is none more witty, and yet few lesse wilfull: none so curteous, yet few lesse curious; as his nature seemes very precious, and yet very perilous: as like the patient, which by ouer much blood falleth into the Plurisie: the glasse, the more fine it is, the more brittle: the smoothest silke, though it last the wynding, will scarce abyde the wearing: the Pargaretts of great valure, yet soonest broken: y^e Muske is most strong in sausur, yet endureth but a smal time: so the nature of Florion by how much the more it is precious, by so much y^e more it is to be doubted: and yet the byrds that breede in Bohemia, are of the same colour in their age, that they were hatched in their bellies: the finest Crystall neuer changeeth colour, and the cleere Diamond remaineth halwaies in one state: so Florion hauing fetled the foundation of his youth in honesty, may end his life in vertue.

But what neede we enter so farre into the state of an other mans life: the beginning we see is as good as the end, we cannot foresee it: but whether it happen to be good or bad, you may account of him as y^eour friend. Yet one thing maketh me muche to maruel, & that is this: that he being in Venice so farre off, should heare more then I, which am not onely in Padua, but in your fathers house, yea more, your nurse and bedfellow: of the resort of Sutors I meane, which although I maruel at for the loosenes, yet I am glad of it, if they be woorth the welcomning. Mamillia, my gray haire, which in respect of my reuerend age should somewhat preuaile to procure some countenance and credit with you, my long continuance and familiarity in your company, my paynes I tooke with you in your swadling clothes, my care in your youth to nourishe you in vertue, and my ioy in your ripe age

age to see you addicted to the same, are of force sufficient, I hope to procure you to be somewhat ruled by my talke: which if you shal doe, I shal thinke my labour wel bestowed, and my time and trauell well spent.

Florion, Mamillia, writeth to you of marriage, which if it cometh of his owne coniecture, and no report, he proueth himselfe a subtil sophister, meaning vnder the colour of an vncertaine rumour, to perswade you to a most stayed and stedfast state of life, as one knowing very well, that as nothing is more commendable then virginity: so nothing is more honourable than matrimonie. And I my selfe, Mamillia, which once a wife, and now a widow, doe speake by experience, that though virginity is pleasant, yet marriage is more delightfull. For in the first creation of the world, God made not Adam and Eua single virgins, but ioynded couples: so y virginity is profitable to one, but marriage is profitable to many. Whether is y vine more regarded that beareth grapes, or y Ash that hath nothing but leaues? The Deere that encrease the park, or the barren Doe? Whether is the hoppe tree more esteemed, that rots on the ground, than that which clasping the pole, creepeth vp, & bringeth forth fruite? What, Mamillia, as virginity is fayre and beautifull: so what by course of kind is more vnseemely, then an old wrinkled maide? what is more pleasaunt to the sight, then a Smaragde, yet what lesse profitable, if it be not vsed? What more delightfull to the eyes, then the colour of good wine; yet what of lesse value if it cannot be tasted? There is nothing more faire thē the Phoenix, yet nothing lesse necessary, because she is single. Yea, even the law of nature, Mamillia, witheth society, and detesteth solitarinesse. Whether euen in thine owne iudgement, Mamillia, if thou hadst a goodly orcharde, wouldest thou wish nothing but blossomes to grow continually; or the blossomes to fade, and the trees to be fraught with pleasat fruit? Whether doest thou think the ruddy Rose, which withereth in the hand of a man, delighting both sight and smelling, more happie than that which fadeth on the stalke without profit? Whether hath the wine better luck which is drunken, than that which standing still, is turned to vinegar.

Mamillia.

neger? And yet, Mamillia, I graunt too muche: for a womans beauty decayes not with marriage, but rather commeth then to the flower and perfection. But as I doe perswade thee to marriage, so would I wish thee to change for the better, or els keepe thy chance still: I meane, I would haue him that shoulde match with thee, to bee suche a one, in whose society thou shouldest not count marriage a bondage, but a freedom; not a knot of restraint, but a band of liberty, one whom thou shouldest like for his beauty, and loue for his vertue; I would haue him to want no wealth, and yet to be wise, and with his wisdom to haue all kynde of ciuility.

Now, Mamillia, as I haue spoken in general, so I wil touch the particular. I meane to shew thereof one, which I woulde wish to be thy husband, and thee to be his wife. Pharicles it is, to be flat with thee, whose beauty & honesty hath amased all Venice, whose order of lyuing may be, and hath been a perfect platforme and methode of ciuil dealing, and honest behauiour: thee, Mamillia, I wish to be his mate for his curtesie: and him to be thy match but in constancie. The Gemme which is gallaunt in colour, and perfect in vertue, is the more pretious; the hearbe, which hath a faire bark, and a sweete sappe, is the more to bee esteemed; the Panther with his paynted skin and his sweet breath is the more delighted: so Pharieles, faire in face, and faithfull in his heart; pleasant in his countenance, and perfect in his mind; is so much the more to be embraced. If a Dre, Mamillia, which is drosse outwardly, and gold inwardly, be of great price: what then is the pure mettall: if the rough stone with a secret vertue, is of value: what is it then, being polished? If a smooth & learned style in an ill print, importes some credit: what doth that which commeth out of a perfect presse? so Mamillia, if a man which is deformed in body, and reformed in minde, may deserue great liking: what deserues he, which is both bountifull, and beautiful? If a crooked carkasse, and an honest nature merite commendation: what doth he then, which is both faire & faithfull? If a disfigured body, with honest conditions, wins fauour: what the doth a comely countenance, with a curteous mynd? Al these perfectiōs

by

by nature, Mamillia, are incident to Pharicles: so þ he can ney-
ther be appeached of want, nor condemned of lacke, neyther his
person nor mind in any wise misliked.

Now Mamillia, conster of my wordes, as you please, & like
where you loue, so that I may neither repent my talke, nor you
curse my counsell.

Mamillia, Gentlemen, was diuened into such a maze with this
sodaine motion of Adam Castilla, that she stood, as though her
heart had bin on her halfeþeny, fearing the fetch of her old nurse,
doubting what a fleec she shoulde shape for the coate, least shee
should be ouertaken in misliking so lightly: or (though not very
chary of her choyse) in choosing so quickly: therefore she framed
her answer betweene both on this maner.

M Adam, if I stand in a mase which haue the harme, thinke it
not strange, sith you maruel, which are not toucht. For I
may more muse of the rumour which know it contrary: than
you, which doe but call it in question. But if Florion haue heard
a lye, and you beleue it: it is not my fault, but your lightnesse of
credit: and therefore construe of it how you can: for I am at a
good poynt. Old women wil quickly conceiue, & soone beleue:
for age is as credulous, as suspitious; the dried oake wil sooner
fire, than the greene Ashe; & olde ragges wil sooner burne, than
new linnen; the green apple is hard to pearce, when the old fruit
wil quickly bruse: so age though they be slow in hearing, yet they
are swifter in beleueing then youth, that the least sparke of sus-
piciousnesse, wil fire their whole brayne. And therefore he that
knoweth their fault, & wil not beare with it, is much too blame.
Wheras you draw your perswasions for my credite, of your talk
from your gray haires, it sheweth surely but a greene wit, not
so full of grauity, as either your age or peeres requires: For the
your reasons would haue tended to ciuility, & not to sensuality,
to vertue, & not to banity. Your paines you tooke with me in my
swadling cloathes, your care in my youth to nurse me in vertue,
and your ioy in my ripe peeres to see mee addicted to the same,
shewes by the end that your care was but slender, & your ioy fai-
ned. The Cowe which giueth good store of mylke, & spillet it

Old age
and susp

Wayne talk
gray hair
shew

Mamillia.

with her foote, is as much to be blamed for the losse, as to be commended for the gift. The water which for a time beareth þ vessel, & at last with the waues ouerwhelmeth the same, doth more harme in drowning the Barke, then good in bearing it. The hunter which trayneth the hounde being young, truely to cal vpon the sence, is much too blame to beate him from it being olde: so you Adam, are more to be blamed for perswading me to matrimonie, than you were before to be commended, for exhorting me to virginity: for in my tender age my infancie was not able to receiue your counsell, and then you tolde me howe greatly I ought to esteeme virginity: and now in my ripe yeeres, when I can conceiue your meaning, you wish me vtterly to forsake it: either then sure you were in a wrong opinion, or els now in an error, but howsoeuer it was, my mind is settled. Virginity you say is delightful, yet matrimony more pleasant: Virginity you put in the positieue, but matrimonie in the superlatiue. Well, I pray God you make not marriage so farre to exceed in comparison, that at last it growe to an extremicie. But as your age is much giuen to the shaking palsey: so I thinke your argumentes haue a spice of the same disease: for their foundation is but fickle, & therefore the lesse worth to be taken at þ hardest. The al Cedar that beareth only bare blossoms, is of more value then the apple tree that is laden with fruite: the keeper (for all your saying) makes more account of a barren Doe, than of a bearing hynde. Diana shal obtaine more fame for her chastity in the hunting of þ woods, than Venus for her lasciuious honestye in playing with Mars in her bed. Virginity shalbe esteemed as a rare & precious iewel, whē marriage shalbe counted but a custome. The baytree growing single by it self, flourisheth greene; whereas being clasped with the puie, it withereth: þ gold of it self hath a gallāt hue, but being touched, it changeth colour: the Saphyre stone clasped in mettall, looseth his vertue: so a virgin being once married, withereth straight, changeth colour, and looseth her chiefeest treasure. And though you say by course of kind that nothing is more vnseemely then an olde wrinckled mayde: yet experience teacheth vs, that nothing is more vnlikely than an olde withered wife.

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wife. The Rose dying on the stalke, seemeth in better state then that which fadeth, being pluckt: the grasse looketh better being vncut, then that which withereth with the sheeth: for the one fadeth by course of nature; and the other by kinde of imperfection. The Phoenix being seldome seene, the more desired; the rarer the Gemme is, the more esteemed. The stones of Arabia because they be straunge, are of greatest price: so virginittie, by so much the more is to be regarded, by how much it is more rare then marriage: for the one cometh by speciall grace, and the other by common course. Virginittie among the Romanes was had in such admiration and estimation, that if by chaunce the Vestal virgins walked abroad, the Senators would giue them the vpper hand, and all the officers shew them due reuerence. Cybil the mother of the Gods, was a virgin: and Minerua was famous for threethings, strength, wisdom, and virginittie. The wise woman which gaue Oracles at Delphos, was a virgin, being alwayes called Pythia. Virginittie alters the nature of wilde beastes: for the Lyons neuer hurt a pure Virgin: and Pliny reporteth that the Unicorne will sleepe on a virgins lappe. Therefore Madame, your argumentes rather importe rule, than reason; and seemes to come from a greene witte, not from a gray head: but though the fowle haue fayre feathers, he may haue rancke flesh; the fish may haue glistering skales without, and yet be rotten within: so your outward shew of grauitie, may inwardly be addicted to vanitie, and old folke are twise children: and perhappes though your face bee wrinckeled, your minde is youtfull; though your peeres and calling argue chastitie, yet you had as leefe haue a husbände, as wishe mee marryed: and I promise you for my parte, I had rather you shoulde eate of the meate, then I taste of the sauce: if it be not a knot of bondage, but a band of libertie, I would haue you once againe try that freedome. But sure eyther you know more then all, or els say more then you know: for not onely the common people, but also the most learned hath thought maryage to be such a restraint of libertie, as it feeleth no sparke of freedome: for both the body is giuen as a

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Mamillia.

Slave vnto the will of an other man, and the minde is subiecte to sorrow and bound in the caue of care: so that euen the name of a wife importes a thousand troubles. If you call this libertie, I know not what bondage is. Who so is addicted to maryage, findeth it easie but in one respect, and that is, if she chaunce on a good husband, which indeede you brauely set out in his colours. But so did Aristotle his happy man; Tully, his Orator, Plato his common Wealth, and in our countrey heere, one of my kinsmen sets out the liuely Image of a Courtier. But as these spoke of such, but could neuer finde them: so you haue described such a husband, as can neuer be heard of. Yet, Madame, you go further: for the others spoke in generall, and you for the better confirmation of your reason, inferre a particular, and that is Pharicles, whom indeed I confesse to haue in outward shew, as good qualities as any in all Italy. But the hearbe, though it haue a fayre hue, and a sweete sappe, yet being tasted, it may be infectious. The Panther with his paynted skinne and sweete breath, hath a tyrannous heart: so Pharicles may bee as foule within, as faire without; and if he be not, he digresseth from his kind: for these Gentlewomen which haue trusted to the beautie of the face, haue beene deceiued with the deformitie of the mind. Theseus, Demophoon, Aeneas, Iason, and Hercules, were both famous for their feature and fortitude, and renoumed for their inuincible valure, and yet they wanne not so much fame for their prowes in warre, as shame for their inconstancy in loue: he that chooseth an apple by the skinne, and a man by his face, may be deceiued in the one, and ouershot in the other. Therefore Madame, such both marriage is troublesome, and the choyce so doubtfull, I meane not to proue the care, nor try the chance, but remaine a virgin still. Yet thus much to your question, if my minde should change to try such happe, I would welcome Pharicles, as well as any other.

Madame Castilla hearing this ouerthwartnes of Mamillia, was driuen into a great mase, to see the Gentlewoman so boate with her: in so much y as old women are soone angry, she tooke pepper in the nose at the sharpe reply, and therefore framed her as quicke an answer.

Mamillia

MAmillia, quoth she, if the Physicians rubbe the soare, the patient must needes sturre; touch a galled horse, and he will winch: so your hotte answer shewes my question toucht you in the quicke; and that though you make so straunge with marriage, yet if your choyce were in your owne handes, you woulde giue a small farewell to virginittie. But the Fox will eate no grapes: and you will not marry, because you may, or perhappes do loue, where your friendes will not like, and your wish should be contrary to their will. Sirichia the Daughter of Smald king of the Danes, could not be perswaded by her father to forsake her virginittie, but the third day after his death, she was betroathed but to a meane Squire: Manlia Daughter of Mauritius was so scrupulous of her virginittie, that she altogether abandoned the company of wiues and widdowes, and yet at length she tooke an husband, and was so kinde harted, that she woulde not sticke to sell large penitworths of her honestie. Mamillia, I will not make comparisions, because they be odious, nor infer any conclusions, for feare of farther daunger. But take this by the way, that he which couers a small sparke in the ashes, will procure a great flame. And with this she departed, as halfe angry, leauing Mamillia very sorrowfull that she had displeased her old nourse, and very carefull for the yssue of her new loue: yet, as much as she could dissembling the matter, she past away the day in mery company.

But all this while Pharicles had a flea in his eare, and a thorne in his soote, which procured him little rest. For as the wounded Deare staves in no place: so the passionat louer stais but without stedfastnes, neuer hauing a quiet minde: for if hee sayle, Loue is his Pilot: if he walke, Loue is his companion: if he sleepe, Loue is his pillow: so that alwayes he hath the spur in his side, to procure his disquiet, hauing no salue for his soare, vnlesse he reape remedy at the hands of his aduersary, which Pharicles tryed true. For there passed no houre after his departure from Mamillia, in which a thousand cares did not clogge his combed minde: for the thought of her sharpe answer was hard to digest in his crased stomacke: then that her father and he was

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Mamillia.

of no great acquaintance, which was a cause of his long absence. Howe if fortune so fauoured, that he gayned her goodwill: yet hee lost his owne freedome, and that was but a signe of an yll chapmanne: Howe oftentimes they, which sued to marrye in haste, did finde sufficient time to repent them at leisure?

And surely Gentlemen, if Pharicles had rested on this point, in my iudgement he had hit the marke: for there is no such hinderance to a man, as a wife: if respecting warre, Darius and Methridates are witnesses: of learning and Philosophy, Socrates comes in as plaintife: so in my opiniõ, if men would neuer marry, they should neuer be marred: and if they would neuer haue a wife, they should alwayes want strife: for she is that burden that Christ onely refused to take from mens shoulders: yea some haue called a wife, a heauy Crosse, as a mery iesting Gentleman of Venice did: who hearing the preacher command euery man to take vp his Crosse, and follow him hastily, tooke his wife on his shoulders, & said he was ready with the foremost: but least in talking of crosses, I be crost for a foole in going beyonde my commission, againe to Pharicles: who though perhaps hee read these, or suche like examples, yet his hot loue warmed his affection: so whatsoeuer he mused in his minde, it would not abate his deuotion, but still sought sundry meanes to breake to his Saynt: and yet the farther he went, the more hee was from his purpose, that he had past the Caue of care, ready to enter into the Dungeon of despayre, if fortune had not fauoured his chaunce. For flinging out of his studie, to auoyde this melancholy, hee went to take ayre in the fieldes, where, by good happe, hee espyed his Mystrisse walking with her nurce to a graynge place, a myldes distance from Padua, to beare certaine Gentlewomen company, which resorted thither to visite a sicke patient, at which place was also Signior Gonsaga, with other Gentlemen.

Now if Pharicles was dyuen into an extasie, with the extreame pleasure he conceiued by the todayne sight of his Goddesse, it is no metuaile, sith her absence was the hazarde of his life,

life, and her presence his onely pleasure: and I think, if I may enter into a womans thought, without offence, Mamillia would not haue wished a fitter companion to shorten her iourney: yet she passed on without any semblance of his sight: whereas feare and necessitie had a deadly combate in the minde of Pharicles, he doubted if he should be ouer bold, he might spill his pottage. But the law of necessitie, saith Plato, is so hard, that y^e Gods themselves are not able to resist it. For as the water, by nature cold, is made hotte by the force of the fire: and the straight tree pressed downe, growes alwayes crooked: so nature is subiect to necessitie, that kind cannot haue his course. The litle House, by nature fearefull, in daunger is desperate: the Booke in safetie is timorous, in perill without feare: the Coward in peace dreads the sight of the weapon, whereas being byged by necessitie, hee passeth the pikes.

Ormaus the Sonne of kinge Cyrus, by nature was borne dumbe, yet when the Citie Suzes was taken, seeing a souldier ready to kill his owne Father, cryed out, villayne, saue the crowne: so that necessitie in him supplied a want of nature.

And if there bee any thing, which is more forcible then necessitie, it is the lawe of Loue, which so incensed Pharicles, that casting all feare aside, hee offered him selfe to his Mistres, with this courteous parle.

Gentlewoman, if I boldly offer my selfe, as a Copartner of your voyage, which am a companion farre vnfitte for such a company, pardon my fault, sith it cometh of force, and condemne not my nature of want of nurture; but let your bewtie beare the blame, as the spurre of my rash enterprise: For the Adamant drawes by vertue, though Iron striue by nature: where force is: there the fault is forgiven. But if in any wise my seruice might pleasure you, or rather not offend you, I woud proffer it, if I knew it would be but halfe so well accepted, as hartly offered: but perhaps it wil not be worth the wearing, because proffered chaffer stinckes.

Madame Castilla hearing the curtesie of the Gentlemanne, and perceiuing what Sainte hee serued, to encourage him the more

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Mamillia.

more, gaue him this gentle answer, fit for his friendly offer.

Gentleman, quoth she, we neither can thinke ill of your nure, cure, nor yet mislike your nature, sith the one argues curtesie, and the other smal curiositie; vntlesse it bee in making your arriual so strange, & accusing your conscience as guilty, which no mā finds fault with: for my part, Sir, & I thinke I may speak for Mamillia, you are not so soone come, as welcome, nor your seruice is not more heartily offered, then willingly accepted: & therefore, if you be content with your happe, wee are very well pleased with the chaunce.

And with that she fel in talke with the rest of the company, to the ende Pharicles might vse some speeches to Mamillia: who now seeing the coast cleere, and time and place fitte for the purpose, gaue her the onset in this manner.

+ **M**istres Mamillia, it hath byn a saying more common then true, that loue makes al men Orators, yet I my selfe finde it contrary by experience, insomuch that I thinke the perfect louer wants not onely Eloquence, but hath a restraint of his nature. The water pot being filled to the brim, yeeldes no licour, though hauing a hundred holes. The wine vessel being full, lets passe no wine, though neuer so wel vented. The colour ioyned hard to the sight, hindreth the sense. The flower put into y nose-chil, stoppeth y smelling. The louer in y presence of his Lady, at y first is eyther driuen into an extasie for ioy, or els into a quaking craiue for feare: so that, when he should plead his cause, his wits are either bewitched, or els not at home: & if it happen his tongue be not tied, in many words lies mistrust, and in paynted speech, deceit is most oftē couered, & specially, where either acquaintance or long continuance hath byed no credit. Therefore I Mistres Mamillia, whose acquaintance with you is smal, & credit lesse, dare vse no circumstance, for feare of mistrust, neither can I tel in what respect to bring a sufficient triall, or prooofe of my goodwill: but only that I wish the end of my loue to be suche, as my faith and loyalty, is at this present, whiche I hope tract of tūe shal cry without spot.

In the meane time requesting you to thinke that the force of
loue

loue hath constrayned me to yeeld as a slaue, readye at beauties comānd to hazard my life for your pleasure: I must needs cōfesse the gifts of Nature so abundantly bestowed vpon you, haue so bewitched my senses, that for my last refuge, I am forced to appeale vnto your curtesie, as a soueraigne medicine for my incurable disease: incurable I may tearme it, vnles the drops of your fauour quench the flame, or els death with his deadly dart decide the cause. But I hope it is vnpossible, the such a crystal breast should lodge an hart of Adamā: the such a sugred face should haue a bitter minde: that your diuine beauty should bee ouergrowne with hellish cruelty, to tormēt the, who for your loue sustaynes a thousand miseries. Miserie I may wel call it: for as there is nothing more pleasant then beauty: so nothing is more p̄ksome thā bondage, & yet my restraint of liberty is so much the more acceptable, by how much the more it is desired. For although the flye willingly fries in the flame, yet she is blameles: although the Vermine loues her mortall enemy, yet is she not faultie, sith the one comes of affection, and the other by course of nature.

Ah Mamillia, thy beauty hath bought my freedom, & thy bea-
uēly face hath made me captiue, the as he which is hurt of the Scor-
pio, seeketh a salue from whence he receiued the sore: so you only may
minister the medicine, which procures the disease. The burning fe-
uer is driuen out with a hot potion, and the shaking palsey with
a colde drinke. Loue onely is remedied by loue, and fancy muste
be cured by mutuall affectiō. Therfore Mamillia, I speake with
teares outwardly, & with drops of blood inwardly, that vnles the
misting showres of your mercie, mittigate the fire of my fancy, &
giue a soueraigne plaister for my secret sore, I am like to passe
my life in greater miserie, then if I had tasted the infernall tor-
ments: for Sophocles being demanded, what harme hee woulde
wish to his enemy, answered, that he might loue where he was
not liked, & that such misfortune might haue long lasting. But
perhaps you wil say, Mamillia, that the beasts which gale at the
Panther, are guilty of their own death; that the Mouse taken in
the trap, deserueth her chaunce; that a louer, which hath free will,
deserueth no pitie, if he make not his choyce right.

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Mamillia.

Oh Mamillia, can the straw resist the vertue of the pure Jet: can flaxe resist the force of the fire: can a Louer withstand the brunt of bewtie: or freese, if he stand by the flame, or peruert the lawes of nature: weigh al things in the balance of equitie, and then I doubt not but to haue a iust iudgement. But this I assure my selfe, if you knew the strength of my loue, or the force of my loyaltie, though my person and byrth be farre vnfit for such a mate, yet you would deeme my loue to deserue no lesse: for Leander to his Hero, or Piramus to his Thesbe was neuer more fathfull, then Pharicles will try himself to Mamillia: that although small acquaintance breeds mistrust, and mistrust hinders loue: yet tract of time shall inferre such a tryall, as trust shall kinde affection.

And therefore I hope that your noble heart wil not put a doubt till occasion be offered, nor cal his credit in question, whom neither you haue found nor heard to be halting. What though the Serpentine powder is quickly kindled, and quickly out: yet the Salamander stone, once set on fire, can neuer be quenched: As the sappy Myrtle tree wil quickly rotte: so the hard Oake will neuer be eaten with wormes: Though the free stone is apt for euery impression: yet the Emerald will sooner breake, then receiue any new forme: Though the Polipe chaungeth colour euery houre: yet the Sapphyre will cracke before it consent to disloyaltie. As all things are not made of one mould: so all men are not of one minde: for as there hath beene a troathlesse Iason, so hath there beene a trustie Troylus, and as there hath beene a dissembling Damocles, so was there a loyall Lælius. And sure Mamillia, I call the Gods to witnesses, I speake without fayning, that sith thy bewtie, either by fate or fortune, is shyned in my heart, my loyaltie shall be such, as the be troathed fayth of Erasto to his Persida, shall not compare with the loue of Pharicles to Mamillia. Sith therefore my loue is such, repaye but halfe so much in parte of recompence, and it will be suffycient to release my sorowe. But alas, who can lay their loue where is no desert, and where want breeds a flat denyall?

Alh Mamillia, Nature by her secreete iudgement hath endued all creatures with some perfect qualities, wher want breedes milkyking. The Houle depriued of sight, hath a woonderfull hearing: the Mare being very fearefull, is most swift: the fish hauing no eares, hath most cleere eyes; so I, of meane wealth, and lesse witte, haue giuen me by nature such a loyal hart, as I hope the perfection of the one will supply the want of the other, and if the choyce had beene in my handes, it shoulde haue beene as it is: therefore sith in you onely consistes my safetie, and that your bewtie hath gayned the chieffest place in my heart: Whereof I hope when time shal be fauourable to my desire, to make sufficient cryal, I humbly beseech you to take pitie vppon him, whose life & death consistes in your answer: and to let it be such, as you may haue a faithfull seruant for euer.

Although these wordes of Pharicles, Gentlemen, did not greatlye displease Mamillia, because it is verpe harde to anger a woman with praising her, and especially, if she think as much of her selfe as others speake, yet she would haue hid fire in the straw, and haue daunced in a net, striming as much as shee could, with a discontented countenaunce to couer a contented mind, and to seeme as cruel as a Tygre, though as meeke as a Lambe, least either by outward shew or words hee might coniecture some hope of good happe, she gaue him this cold confection for his hotte stomacke.

So, quoth she, although the common prouerbe saith, that the Citie which comes to parle, and the woman that lendes an attentiu eare, the one is soone sacked, and the other is easilpe gayned: yet I would wish you not to conceiue any hope, or spend any trauaell: for your hope shal be voyd, and your labour lost.

For although I was so foolish to lend you mine eare, I am warie enough in letting of my heart: for as you found me prodigall in the one, you shall finde me as niggardly in the other. But as fables are good enough to passe away the time, so your talke will seeme to shorten the way, and so I take it. For it is yll halting before a Cripple, and a burnt childe will feare the fire. And though I neede not doubt, because I was neuer burnt, yet is it

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Mamillia.

good to beware by an other mans harme: the House that seeth
her fellow taken in the trappe, and ventureth her self, deserueth
no pittie, if she be caught: the Foxe seeing his marrow almost
killed with the dogges, is a foole, if he take not squat: it is hard
taking of fowle, when the net is descried: and yll catching of
fish, when the hooke is bare: it is hard, Pharicles, to make her
beleue, that will giue no credit, & to deceiue her that spyeth the
fetch: when the string is broken, it is hard to hit the white: whe
a mans credit is called in question, it is hard to perswade one.
Blame me not, Pharicles, if I vrge you so strictly, nor thinke
nothing, if I suspect you narrowly: a woman may knit a knot
with her tongue, she cannot vntie with all her teeth: and when
the signet is set on, it is too late to breake the bargayne: there-
fore I had rather mistrust too soone, then mislike too late, I had
rather feare my choyce, then rue my chaunce: I had rather stop
at the brimme, then at the bottome. A womans heart is like the
stone in Aegypt, that will quickly receiue a forme, but neuer
chaunge without cracking: therefore, if I receiue any, it shal be
such a one, as I shall not repent me: I put an if in it, because I
doe not meane to chaunge virginicie with mariage, for it would
be too hard a bargaine: for we see those women, which haue bin
counted most wise, haue beene most chaste, and so fearefull to
match, y they durst not once cal it in question. Faza, the princeesse
of Gaule, when she knew her father had promysed her in mari-
age, wept so long, til she became blind. Parthenia after she was
maried, and had tryed by childebirth the difference betweene
virginicie and mariage, she would neuer after companie with
her husband, saying, that a lasting vertue was to be preferred be-
fore a fading vanitie: such therfore the most wise haue feared and
eschewed, thinke me not cruell, if I be wise for my self, nor iudge
me not scrupulous, though I put a doubt before I haue cause; or
be in dread to buy repentance at an vnrasonable rate, for if I
were minded to marry, I shoulde hardly find one fish among so
many Scorpions, or one Veral among so many broken glasses.
The wolfe hath as smooth a skin as y simple sheepe: the sower
Elder hath a fayrer bark the the sweet gineper: where the water

is calmest, there it is deepest; and where the sea is most quiet, there it is most dangerous; where is the greatest colour of honesty, there oftentimes is the most want: for an empty vessell hath a louder sound then a full barrell, and a dissembling minde hath more eloquence then a faythfull hart: for trueth is ever naked. I will not apply the comparison, Pharicles, to any particular, but in generall: yet if the propositions be vniuersal, they may inferre in the conclusion a perticular person. The Poets and paynters representing the loue of menne, bring in Cupid with a payre of winges; disciphering the loue of women, a Tortuse vnder the feete of Venus: shewing that as the loue of men is moueable, and vncoustant as a byrde: so the fancy of women is as firme & fixed, as a stedfast Tortuse. And with great reason: for neyther the Romishe records, nor Grecian hystories haue made any, or at the least so oft mention of the disloyaltie of women: but onely how their simplicitie hath beene beguyled by the flatterie of faigned louers, of whome the most renoumed may beare sufficient witnes: (as Theseus, Iason, Hercules, Aeneas and Demophon) that the loue of men hath ever beene inconstant: yet they so reioysed at their infamous deedes, that the Poets canonized them, not only for saints, but placed them among the Gods; so that others of base estate, taking example by them, doe vaunt of their disloyaltie, as of some glorious conquest, and as Herostratus fiered the temple of Diana, to be spoken of, so they falsifie their faith, to be famous. Yet it is a world to see how the deepest dissembler of them all, can haue teares at commaund to deceaue a simple mayde: What sighs? what sobbs? what prayers? what protestations? their talke burnes as hotte as the mount Aetna, when as their affectiō is as cold as a clock: it is not the loue of y^e maid, but y^e lust of their mind; not her bounty, but her bewtie; so that euery face sets them on fire; euery lady, be she louely, must be their mistres. But no maruel, for if men are chollericke, hot in their loue, and dry in their fayth, soone set on fire, and soone quenched: their loue is euen as lasting as the flame in the straw: which is as litle permanent, as it is violent, or like the Apples in Arabia, which begin to rot, ere they be halfe ripe.

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Mamillia.

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Well Pharicles, although I cast all these doubtles, and others
haue tryed them true, yet I am forced by fancy to take some re-
morce of thy tormentes. Medea knew the best, and did followe
the worst in choosing Iason: but I hope not to finde thee so wa-
uering.

Ah Pharicles, I haue beene brought vp in the court, and al-
though my bewtie be small and witlesse, yet I haue beene desi-
red of many, and could neuer fancy any: thou hast wonne the ca-
stle that many haue besieged, and hast obtained that which others
haue sought to gaine: it is not the shape of thy bewtie, but the
hope of thy loyaltie, which enticeth me, not thy fayre face, but thy
faythful heart; not thy comely countenaunce, but thy curteous
manners; not thy wordes, but thy vertues: for she that buyldes
her loue vpon bewty, meanes to fancy but for a while: for where
the subiect is fading, the cause cannot be lasting. Would God,
Pharicles, I might finde thee but such a one, as I will try my
selfe to bee: for whereas thou dost protest such loyaltie, and put
case it be as true as it may be: yet it shall be but counterfeyte re-
specting mine: be thou but Theagines, and I will try my selfe
to be more constant then Cariclia: no tormentes, no trauayle, no,
onely the losse of life shall diminishe my loue: in liewe thereof
remayne thou but constant, and in pledge of my protested good
wyll, haue heere my hearte and hande to be thine in duste and
ashes.

x
MAmillia hauing thus ended her talk, I leaue you to iudge,
gentlemen, into what a quandarie Pharicles was brought.
seeing the answer of his Mistresse to be so cōrespondent with
his demaund, & y fortune was so fauourable to his desire, as she
seemed to will, that he did wish. For if the condemned man re-
ioyseth, when he heareth his pardon pronounced, or the prisoner
his freedom, no doubt Pharicles ioy could be no lesse, such de-
nial was his death, and consent, the conserue to heal his wound:
the greater care, the greater ioy: the more doubt, the more plea-
sure: so his vnlookt for hap brought such an inspeakable conten-
tation, as forced through the extremity of his passions, and incē-
sed by the constraint of his affection, he burst forth into this talk.

Mamillia,

MAmillia, if where the water standeth most still, there it is deepest, and when the winde is lowest, then the greatest tempest is imminent: so where the minde with ouermuch toy, or too much payne is surcharged, there the tongue is both tyed, and the countenaunce restrayned: so that as the heart is not able to conceiue it, the tongue is not able to expresse it, as the water pottle, which being full, voydeth no licquour. Publius Metellius bearing his Sonne had subdued the Equiars, died for toy. Cassinatus conceaued such a pleasure in seeing his father winne a garland in Olympus, that he kild himselfe with inward laughter. If I infer the similitude, perhaps it wil breede doubt: for deedes in loue are to be required, and not words. Therefore, for feare I incurre the suspicion of flattery, I will leaue you to coniecture of that, which I thinke.

But this by the way, assure your selfe, Distresse Mamillia, that your bewtie hath so blinded me, as I shall neuer see any, which so well shal content my minde: and your bountie hath bounde me neuer to lyke any other. Thus enueigled with the one, and fettered with the other, I remayne your true seruant for euer.

While they were in these tearmes, Madam Castilla thought Pharicles had giuen the fozte a sufficient battery, for this tyme: therefore ioyning to them with the rest of the company, she interrupted them on this maner.

Mistresse Mamillia, I beleue you will go with a cleane soule to visit the sicke patient: for if you haue beene al this while at shrift, you might both haue confessed a great many of faultes, and receiued full absolution. But I pray God your goodly Father be as holy for the soule, as wholsome for the body: if he be, surely you haue heard good counsell: if not: it is Saint Erauncis fault, he wantes his hooode.

Madame, quoth Mamillia, if you thinke so well of my goodly Father and his shrift, I pray you let him haue you in confession as long: for you are eldest, and therefore had neede of a longer examination and larger absolution, if hee be holpe for the soule, he hath enough to take care of his own: as for myne,

Mamillia.

I will take charge of my selfe: if wholsome for the body, the more fitte for your purpose, such old women are full of diseases, and had neede haue a Phisicion tyed by their girdle: as for saint Frauncis fault, as you tearme it, if that be a hinderaunce of his coming, I am sure to pleasure you, he will take the paynes to fetch it.

Pharicles hearing the tauntes of the Gentlewomen, and seeing that he was come to the Gentlemans place: because he was not well acquainted, though against his will, thought best for that time to take his leaue: and therefore offred them the farewell with this priny quip.

Madame, if my keeping the Gentlewoman so long at shrift, hath beene in any respect offensive to you, I am very sorry: but if I may stand you as long in steede of a gostly Father, and so pleasure you, I am at commaund: mary my commission is neither for worde nor deede, and therefore I doubt your confession will be too large for mee to deale with all. But such I haue brought you thus farre: and am altogether vnacquainted with the Gentleman, I will take my leaue to depart home, although against my will.

Nay surely, quoth Madame Castilla, your hast shall make waste, and your small acquaintance shalbe no hinderance: for at this time you shall be my guest, and with that they entred into the place, where after they had saluted the company, and visited the sicke person, Madam Castilla requested the gentleman to welcome the stranger for her sake, who both had taken paines to beare them company, and through his pleasaunt conceites procured the way to seeme shorter. Signior Gonzaga taking occasion to shew his good will to Pharicles, answered: that such the maister of the house was not well, he would say the Gentleman was welcome in his befall: and so taking him by the hand, welcomed him very friendly. Which curtesie of Gonzaga was no lesse pleasure vnto Pharicles, then contentation vnto Mamillia, to see him whom they most doubted, to shew such a friendly countenaunce, that they both hoped to haue a prosperous successe in their enterpryse.

Not

Now this sicke Gentleman, called Gostino, had one onely daughter, named Publia, about the age of sixteen peeres, whose bewty and bringing vp, she wed that she was in no respect second vnto Mamillia: but rather more perfect in the giftes of nature. This young Gentlewoman being by the mothers side continuall Germaine to Mamillia, after her duetie done to the company, requested them to take such a simple dinner, as her father in so short a time could provide: giuing them also to vnderstand by her behauour, that the influence of the heauens had denyed her nothing: but that nature had forced her self to augment the grace of nature, and that comelines of body, and curtesie of the minde hadde a continuall warre, which shoulde haue the superpriority.

This gorgeous Goddess furnished with these singular qualities in euery respect, so set on fire Pharicles fancy, that as if he had drunk of the fountaines in Ardenia, his hot loue was turned to as cold a lyking.

Now his heart was set vpon Publia, which of late was bowed to Mamillia, in such a sorte, that his stomacke lost the wonted appetite to feede the eyes with the bewtie of his new Goddess, as that he seemed to haue eaten of the hearbe Spattania, which shutteth vp the stomacke for a long season. And Publia on the contrary side, noting the feature of Pharicles, the comeliness of his person, and the rarenes of his qualities, was so scorched with the bewtie of this new guest, as finding occasion to conuey her selfe into her closet, vnder the colour of some serious businesse, she powred forth her plaintes in this order.

Unhappy fortune, O lucklesse destinie, hath Publia prepared a banquet to entrappe her selfe with a more dainty delicat: hath she layde the net, and is taken in the snare: hath shee welcommed him that hath caught her captiue: well, now I see, that as the Bee that flyeth from flower to flower, hauing free choyce to chuse at libertie, is at last taken by the winges, and so fettered: in like manner my fancy taking the vewe of euery face, hath a restraint of her freedome, and is brought in bondage with the bewty of this straunger.

Mamillia.

X Alas, what shall I doe: Shall I loue so lightly: shall Fancy giue me the foyle at the first dash: shall myne eyes be the cause of my miserie: would God they had lost their sight in the cradle, shall my heart be so tender, to yeelde at the first call: would God nature had framed it of Adamant, to resist the force of such foolish cogitations.

X Ah Publia, consider thy state: what hath he more to be beeloued then other: thy suiters haue had to beliked. What, foole: dost thou aske a question of Loue, or a reason of Fancy: strue not against the streame: if thou resist Loue, thou art ouermatched. For euen the Gods are tributaries vnto Venus, as confesseinge the superiorties of beauties kingdomes, then be not thou ashamed, being but a simple maide. Venus loued a black smith with a pault foote: and thou a Gentleman of singular perfection: yet as there is a difference betweene thee and Venus in betwixt: so is there a greater distaunce betweene Vulcan and him in deformitie. Then Publia, yeelde when thou must needes consente: run when thou art called by command: for sure, if euer thou wilt bestowe thy freedome, he is worthy to haue thee captiue: if thou meanest to marrie, thou canst not haue a meeter match: yea but how if his heart be placed, and his minde settled: then were I a great deale better to wayle at the first, then weepe at the last, to be content with a litle picke, then with a deepe wound. The Scorpion, if he touch neuer so lightly, enuenometh the whole body: the least sparke of wilde fier sets on fire a whole house: the Cocatrice killeth euen with her sight: y^e sting of loue woundeth deadly: the flame of Fancy fireth the whole bodye: and the eyes of a Louer are counted incurable: yet the Elephant being enuenomed with the Viper, eateth him vp, and is healed, there is nothing better for burning, then heat of fire, & nothing so soone killeth a Basilisk, as the sight of a man. Then Publia, sith Pharies hath giue the wound, let him salue the soye: let the fire of affection driue out the flame of Fancy; and sith thou art hurte by the eye, be healed by the sight: hope for the best: for thou hast as much to be loued, as he to be liked: & therefore remain patient, til thou knowest more. With y^e she went out of her closet: but before her

her returne the strangers had dined, and were al descanting of the Gentlemans disease.

So many heads, so many wits: for some saide it was a feuer, and proceeded of cold: some, the consumption of the milke, whose originall was thought some burstines, and ensued of flegme: some one thing, and some an other: but all I thinke mist the marke. Gonzaga, who heard all their opinions, sayd, that if the Gentleman were not wel stricken in age, whatsoeuer the disease was, he would say the first cause was loue: and my reason is this, quoth he: the oft chaunge of colours, his sodaine traunces, his sighes in his dreame, the dead stopping of his pulles, and then their beating a fresh, al these are signes of an vnquiet minde, of an impatient affection, and to be flat, of loue it selfe.

Signior Gonzaga, quoth the sicke Gentleman, eyther you are expert in phisick, or els you speake by experience: but whether you doe, you misse the cushion: for my disease doth not proceede of loue: nor if I were wel, should it: for I haue felt the first dishe of so variable a tast, that I wil neuer eate of the second: I meane, I felt the presence of my wife so sweet, and her absence by death so sowre, as I meane, neuer to try the like hay. But nowe, sith you are all at leysure, and I very gladde to heare any thing that might mitigate the paine, or shorten the time, I woulde craue this boone of you all in general, that one of you woulde satisfie my minde in this, to tel me what thing it is the common people call loue.

The Gentlemen of their curtesie could doe no lesse but condescend to their hostes request: yet euery one alleadging of disability, so that they were forced to cast lots, who shoulde discusse this hard question: & amongst al, the chance fel vpon Pharicles, which although it was some small grieve vnto him, because hee doubted of his habilitie: yet hee thought Fortune fauoured him in this poynt, that he might shew his cunning before Publia.

Where I cannot but muse, Gentlemen, to see that such moyst licour shold turne to hard flint: that the most wholesome Michi-date in wise shifting, shoulde be deadly popson: that the Reedes

Mamillia.

*wen in
 as life
 els for the
 neuer comes
 sent.*

in Candie, will of their owne nature become bitter gall: that
 the loue of men should turne to hard hatred: that fancy should be
 quenched at the second sight: that the affection of Pharicles,
 should turne to frantick folly, in misliking without cause, and
 choosing without tryall: but it is not so common, as true, that
men be fickle in their faith, brittle in their braine, and luke-
warme in their loue: neither hot nor cold, euen like the Pick-
rell, that keepeth the baight in his mouth, to cast out at his plea-
sure: yet where doe we see any writing of loue, or of any such
matter: but they must haue one sting at women: displaying
their nature, disciphering their nurture, painting out their pol-
iticke practises and subtil shiftes, declaring their mutabilitie,
comparing them to the Polipe stone, that chaungeth colours e-
uery houre; to the Weathercock, that wauereth with the wind;
to the Parigolde, whose forme is neuer permanent, but chaun-
geth with the Sunne: and yet they themselves a great deale
worse: as Pharicles, one of the same sect presently shal proue:
 who fryed at euery fire, and chaunged his looke at euery lecke,
 as one that builded vppon bewtie, and not bountie; that did lust,
 but not loue; with which fickle fever y^e Gentlemen of our time
 are greatly troubled: for he that cannot looke & laugh, and tel a
 tale with *nulla fide*, they wil straight note him in ther tables for
 a dunce, or put him in their bookes for a foole: and yet they wil
 needes fry in frost, & freeze in fire: they see, & yet are blind: they
 heare without eares, they spend the day in sighing, and the night
 in sobbes; they haue heapes of care, streames of teares, waues
 of woe: yea, to be short, they like without loue, and fancy, with-
 out affection, that their choyce must needes chaunge, because it
 is without reason.

But againe to Pharicles, who seeing necessitie on the one
 side, and his credit on the other, to be two spurres in his side, and
 that the Gentlemen were attentime, began on this manner.

The Poets and Playnters sayned not fortune blinde, without
 good cause, and great reason: for as her gifts are vncertaine:
 so the lotte is doubtfull, and the chaunce vnlookt for, most often
 happeneth: she imparteth wealth to the foole, and pouertie to
 the

the wise: she powreth water into the Sea, when it ouerfloweth, and giueth riches to him that is cloyed with aboundance: doe we not see, that where is most neede, there she giueth least? and the most noble men haue the worst lucke: Policrate is a mirror of her mutabilitie, by his miserable end: and Abdolominus, a patterne of her frailtie, by his good happe: and I heere may serue for a prooofe of her small skill, that hath layed a great burden on me, which am leest able to beare it. But on the small bough hangeth oft the most fruit; and on the worst wit sometimes chaunceth the greatest charge: for neither my experience by nurture, nor my wit by nature, hath wherof to compare with, the worst of the company, and yet fortune by lot hath layde the most on me, so that he that worst may, must hold the candle. But such a man must needs go when the diuel driues, although I know my faulte, and you shall finde it, yet the hope of your curtesie, voyde of curiositie, somewhat encourageth my slender skill to presume the farther, although betweene your learned eares and my rude tongue there will be great discord. I will not doe as Hiarbitas and Hermonides, who striving to excell in musicke, for euer lost their voyces, least if I force my selfe in eloquence to seeme a courtier, I proue at length a flat carter. Astorides seeing Roscius gestures, durst neuer after come on the stage: Hiparchion hearing Rufinus blowe vpon his pipe, would neuer after play on his flute. Two thinges daunte the minde of a young man, eyther the skill or person of the hearer: Demosthenes the famous Orator of Athens was so astonished at the maiestie of king Philyp, that he lost his speech: Carnitus seeing Anniball comming into the schooles, became dumb: then it is no meruaile, gentlemen, if I be afrayd to incur the comon prouerb, A fooles bolt is soone shot; or to doubt y my green wit should giue a rash reason, or enter too far in mine own conceite, which was so hurtful to Marsias, y with his pipe would imitate Apollos harp. Notwithstanding as the prick of the spurre forceth the horse that feareth the euill way, so in this my doubt the reuerence I beare to Gostino and the rest of the company banisheth al feare, assuring my selfe you will lay the fault vpon for-

Mamillia.

tune, who made the losse so vnequall, and let my vniust chaunce
serue for a sufficient excuse: and if I happe to stretch too farre,
I wil blowe the retrayte with repentance which neuer commeth
without pardon.

When I coniecture with my selfe, Gentlemen, the great tra-
uel and industry that the auncient Philosophers, and learned
men haue taken in searching out the secrets of nature, insomuch
that some of them haue put out their owne eyes, to attayne to
the greater perfection, thinking that they were obstacles & hin-
derances of their profound contemplations, as did Democles.
Others being extreemely delighted with supernaturall cogita-
tions, and enamoured of the Mathematicall artes, with gazing
vp into the skie, haue fallen backward, and broken their neckes,
as did Gallus: some searching out the essence of the first mat-
ter, waded so farre in the depth of Astronomy, seeking out the
causes of the ebbing and flowing of the Sea, that they drowned
themselves, as Aristotle. Others coueting to know the sense of
secret matters scanning the quiddities of Logike, haue lost their
wittes, as Crinitus, and many other moe. I cannot but mar-
uel that among al these secretaries of nature, there haue neuer
byn found any which haue enterprised to search out the essence
and perfect nature of loue. Sure I thinke they might answere
with Hermes, who being demaied what God was, said he could
neuer giue answere, because the farther he went, the more was
behinde, yet in my iudgement the true loue is no other thing,
but a desire of that which is good; and this good is the influence
of the celestiall bountie: so that by the definition it is to be pla-
ced in the intellectuall part of the mynd, and not in the sensuall:
but your question Signior Gostino is of that which the commo
people cal loue.

Ouid, who thought himselfe a maister of that art, and writ
precepts of the same, thought it more obscure then the Letters
of Ephesus, or the riddles of Sphinx, to tel the perfect definition
of loue: so that being demanded what it was, answered, that hee
knew not what it should be, from whence it sprong, whether it
went, noz to what end it tended: but sure, quoth he, it is the losse
of

of a mans selfe: Anacreon said it was a sweeter mischiefe, than for
 a pince of pleasure we receive a gallon of sorow: for what weep-
 ings, what watchings, what curfinges, what sighes, what
 travel both the lover endure: so that in another place he calleth
 it a warfarre, for the drumme of fancy strikes up the Alarm in
 the Lovers heartes, as he goeth to fight, knowing to be hant-
 med and that every frowning look of his Lady, is worse then
 the shot of a cruell Cannon: And yet the passionate Lover is
 thought to abide no payne, nor suffer no trouble. *nomino 343*
 Calimachus calleth it a Court without Sergeantes, for be-
 cause they that love, obey without constraint, and are captive
 without conquest: Therefore in any judgement, such love com-
 meth of free will, is ought to haue the better award: *almo 343*
 Prince Tamberlane, the most bloody butcher in the world,
 neuer shed blood, where there was submission, and the Lyon
 spareth life, if his enemy yeeld: what beast is so brute as kyl-
 leth his fellow: then that woman is much too blame, that with
 her veniall would seeke his life, who brought captive by love,
 causes pardon. Propertius saith, I would a swieter manner, by
 cause the Lover should be so meane, willingly: and that
 the mynde of the Lover is not where it lyeth, but where it
 toucheth. *nomino 343*
 Oh, sayth he, what man is able to resist the force of love: or
 rather, what will not love force a man to do: Did not Retornio-
 dius ouerthrow the whole state of the Lacertians, for the
 love of Scedalus daughters: Roderick of Spaine lost his king-
 dome for Camina, yea many haue not onely hated, both father
 and mother for the love of their Laddes, but also haue paysoned
 their kinsmen and acquaintaunce, for to fulfil the ir fancies. Cata-
 line slew his sonne, for the love of Orestilla: and yet men are
 counted neither for all nor saythfull. Tibullus called Ioue a pro-
 found seience: to be bytely, euerie one payntes it out in his co-
 lours, as it please them, and yet none can tell what they say: in
 such sort that they make it a misterie, which can neither bee ex-
 pressed nor caught, but by demonstration in a dumb schoule, as
 the sacrifice of Ceres, or of Vesta: yet the most wise phy-
 loso-

Philosophers, haue deemed themselves doctors in the arte of loue,
condemning them as vnperfect of nature, boyd of sense and ci-
uilitie, that haue done, and thought it good to liue without loue.
For Aristotle in his Politikes, & Plato in his common weale
haue proued by substantiall reasons, that nature neuer framed a-
ny thing more precious then societie: and what is so sure a se-
dowship as marriage? This was the cause, that by the lawes of
Lacedemon, those men which dispised Loue, were driuen out of
the common playes, and were sent to the wild Forrests as brute
beastes, to liue there with sauage Sactyes: so that Casimer, the
king of Polonia, which would neuer marry, or Henry the first
Emperour, who after he was married, vsed his wife, but by the
eye, should neuer haue bought their freedome in that title. Or
if the Bishop of Alexandria, which seratched out his priuities
for feare of Venus charmes: or Lewes the second son of Charles
king of Sicilia, which would neuer see any woman, for feare to
be entrapped of the superstitious Essenians, that were the mor-
tal enemies of woman kinde, had had Licurgus for their iudge,
they had by that opinion purchased y strapado for their paines.
Therefore both loue, both according to the Philosophers, yea
but also the Societie themselves, which were moued with no affec-
tions, and by the opinion of the moste iuste and seuerer Lawe-
giuers, is so necessary, that without it the world would perishe,
fall into ruine and decay, it is needefull, that before we receiue
such a guest, we know what he is, whence he comes, and how to
be entreated. But me think, Gentlemen, we haue begonne preely to fol-
lowe the steps of our Ancestors: for as the Samians, which built
a Colledge, and the Parians and Lacedemonians, that set vp a
Temple in the honour of loue, grew into that of Venus: so you
haue here in this place erected a Schoole, and haue chosen the
most unworthy for maister: whose rules, although they be boyd
of reason: yet they take this by the way, that sith loue is young,
he requireth young scholars. And therefore, Gentlemen, doe
not, as Hercules did, who began to be an amorous knight in
his age: but loue, when both your beuty is in the bud, and your
witt

written in the flower: for an old lover is like an old hogge with a greene taylor.

Signior Gostino, whether it were through the weakenes of his stomacke, or the extremitie of his paine, was forced to interrupt Pharicles in the middes of his talke, requesting the Gentleman not to thinke that it was wearines of his discourse: but of straungenesse of the disease, that procured this restraint, and to entreate the rest of the companie not to take it in euill parte, that hee was the cause of such a sodaine intermission, hoping the Gentleman at their next meeting would satisfie their mindes fully, wishing Pharicles not to bee a stranger at his house, but to vse him as a friend, and the oftner he should come, the better he should be welcome.

Pharicles, with the rest of the Gentlemen, perceiving Gostino to craue rest, and that his browlie eyes chyned for sleepe, thanking him for their good cheere, and wishing his welfare, tooke their leaue, and departed.

But Pharicles, whose heart was on his halfpenny, found in his fingers, that he might be the last should take his leaue of Publia, to see if he could strike fire out of the flint: and therefore straying her by the hand, gaue her his A dio.

Gentlewoman, if I take my leaue more boldly then any of the rest, impute the fault to your bewtie, and not to my impudencie, which hath fixed my fancy with the flame of affection, as I am halfe in doubt it is vnguenturable: yet though the patient knowes his disease vncurable, he couetes a plaister to mitigate the paine. But I hope well, and if I may haue wel, I shall thinke my selfe to get as much as I would wish.

The trauelier talking of hunger, hath neuer a more sharp stomacke, and I so long discoursed of loue, that where before I shotte as a blinde man: nowe were I able to speake by experience. For Ouid, nor all the maisters of loue coulde neuer finde out a more perfect definition, then my fancie, fettered in the beames of your bewtie, hath imprinted into my mind: so that by the charge of Venus, will you, will you, I remaine your seruant.

Publia receiving this farewelly, as hartely as hee vicerred
it, gaue him a Cake of the same paste, and a soppe of the same
saue.

Gentleman, quoth shee, as I cannot laye the fault of your
boldnesse, as you tearme it, to any impudency, so would I
not haue you without cause accuse my bewtie, least you either
commit folly or flattery: for hee that prayseth the Crowe, for
her coloure, is eyther stone blinde, or starke madde: and there-
fore I thinke that your fancye is not fixed: but your fan-
tasy is fumed with some vapours, proceeding from a hotte sto-
macke, procuring a rash iudgement: so that when it shalbe alay-
ed with some colde confection, you wil not be of the same opini-
on. But sure I am content at your next coming, to take
a recantation for a recompence of your errour: which the
sooner it bee, the better it shall please mee: and so fare you
well.

This word, as it came faintly from Publia, so was it as hard of
digression to Phaulkes: yet he dissembling, held Mamillia with
him, till he had brought her home, and taking his Congee with
a cold little at her waite, and the tips, giuing her the vale with a coun-
terfeit kind of curtesie, and so departed.

But Publia more impatient, euen as the horse, that neuer ha-
uing felt the spurres, runneth at the first prick: so she neuer ha-
uing felt the like flattery, was more hotte, and lesse warpe, then if
she had bene whored before, as she was forced to with this her loue
in these dayes, like tearm.

Ere, quoth she, that things vntooked for, most often happen
and that hee which most trusteth, is lesse assured. The Hart,
when he hopeth best in the myghtines of his ioyntes, is then
plucked downe with the Dogge, as the Dove giuing credit to her
wings, is tealed on with the Hawk, as the Mare in the most pride
of her swiftnes, is caught by the lunderer: althow when shee
trusteth most on her chastitie, hath then the greatest euill to be
by bewtie, which I say not onely by guesse, but speake by triall:
For whether the feature of the face, the bewty of the body, nor the
vertues of the mind, or goodes of Fortune could euer sturre the
flayed

stayed minde of Publia, to swaue from the bowed virginities
 so that thinking my selfe as chaste, as any in Padua, I proue the
 lightest in Italy: for I yeelde before I be overcome: I consent
 without compulsion: the first assault, the first shot, the first Alarm,
 yea the first worde hath scaled the walles, wounne the fort, and
 caught me captiue. Alas, what will they say, that praysed me for
 my vertue? will they not as fast dispraise me for my vice? will
 not my father fret, my kinsfolke cry out, my friendes be sorry, my
 enemies laugh me to scorne: yea, will not al the world wonder,
 to see me of late giuen to chastitie, and now shake handes with
 virginities: to yeeld my dearest Jewel and chiefest treasure vnto
 the stranger? The choyce of a friend requireth the eating of
 a bushell of salt; then the choosing of a husband, tenne; for by
 how much the bande is straighter, by so much the choice should
 be longer.

But I almoste lyke beefore I looke, and loue beefore I
 knowe, and cast my coine, I wotte not where; and am lyke to
 reape, I knowe not what. Ah foole, is not the Iacynth, if it be
 rubbed with lyne, soone set a fire, and hardly quenched? is not
 the Adamant and the yron soone iopned, and hardly disseuered?
 the coine hath his stampe in a moment, and cannot be taken
 out without melting. Loue entrencheth easily, and is as hard to thrust
 out as nature: fancye soone fireth; but long ere it quenchech
 yea but Publia, flatter not thy selfe: for soone rype, soone rot
 that which entrencheth without compulsion, will weare awaye
 without constraint: marryage, if it be soone begun, yet it is not
 to soone ended. Take time and choyce, and choose warily, not
 his face: for nothing so soone glutteth the stomacke, as sweete
 meate; and nothing sooner fills the eye, then bewtie: for oftentimes
 where is the best proportion, there are the worst properties;
 the wine is not knowne by the calke, but by the taste. The
 Gods intending to shew the perfection of nature in one crea-
 ture, framed a man so exquisite in foyme and feature, as neither
 for the liniamentes of his face, nor the proportion of his bodye
 was possible to be sayde, this was wanting. This demy God be-
 ing sent vpon the earth, when as noone could condemne nature

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Mamillia.

of want, Momus onely found this fault; that the Gods framed not a window in his brest, through which to perceiue his inward thoughtes: meaning, as I coniecture, that there is none so comely in his body, but may bee corrupte in his minde, nor so fine in his feature, but he may be faultie in his sayth: to cōclud, as euery saint hath his fealt, so euery man hath his fault; that a man had neede groope well, that should finde one fish amonge so manye Scorpions, and what a one Pharicles is, I may easily gesse, but I know not.

Ah Publia, if any one heard thy talke, they might condemne thee of villany. Wilt thou speak euil of him which wisheth well to thee? shal thy reward of loue be loathing? doth good wil deserue hatred? or fancy defiance? What hath he, y^e thou maist not like? or what wouldest thou like, that is wanting in him, neither bewty, birth, wisdom, wealth, & what more is to be required in a man? Ah, nothing, Publia: his store procureth thy want, his perfection hath made thee vyperfect, as now thy welfare hanges in the wil of an other man, and doost both liue and loue, so that conclude with thy self, Pharicles must be he, whose shape thou wilt shine in thy heart for euer, hap good, or happy euill, against all the assaults of fortune.

Publia was not thus vexed on the one side, but Pharicles suffered a farre greater torment: that after hee came to his lodging casting himselfe on his bedde, hee exclaymed on his happy in such sorte, that the aboundance of teares were sufficient signes of his woe.

O Pharicles, Pharicles, what a doubtfull combat dost thou feele in thy minde betweene fancy and sayth, loue and loyalty, beautie and bountie? shal the flickering assault of fancy ouerthrow the castle of constancy, shal the lightnesse of loue violate the league of loyalty? shal the shadow of bewtie wipe out the substance of bounce? shal hope bee of more force then assurance? wilt thou vow thee constant to one, and procure thy selfe not stedfast to any? the Turtle chuseth, but neuer changeth; the Swan lyketh, but neuer loatheth; the Lyon after he hath entered league with his make, doth neuer couet a new choyce: these haue

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but only sense; and I am sure thou hast reason and sense, and art more varly: they haue but nature for their guide, and yet are constant: thou haste both nature and nurture, and yet thy minde is mouable: these brute beastes keepe their consent inuolable, and thou a reasonable creature dost falsifie thy faith without constraint, yea euen breake thine oath without compulsion, whereas nothing is so to be hated, as perjury, and a man hauing cracked his credit, is halfe hanged.

Marcus Regulus rather then hee shoulde falsifie his faith, euen to his enemies suffered a most horrible death. Horatius Secundus being betraied to Ciuilia, was rackt to death for his constancy. Lamia a Concubine, by no torments coulde be baled from the loue of Aristogicon. What perilles suffered Theagines to keepe his credit with Caricha? Pharicles, let these examples mooue thee to be loyall to Mamillia: be thou steadfast, and no doubt thou shalt not finde her staggering: but if thou waiver, ware thou dost not as the dogge, loose both bones: for deceit deserues deceite, and the ende of cretcherie, is to haue small trust.

Sudafus a Parian boyne, when he came into the courte, to sweare, that he neuer loued Castana, became dumbe, and so was condemned. Iouinianus Otto nephew to Alexādrus Farnesius, after that he had renounced his vow made to his louer, ran madder beware, Pharicles, of the like rewarde; if thou commit the lyke offence. Tush hee that would refraine from drinke, because hee hath heard that Anacreon died with the pottle at his head, or that hatch an egge, because Apperius Sauleius dyed in eating of one, would be noted for an Ass: so if I should stand to my pennyworth, hauing made my market like a foole, and may change for the better, because other in the like case haue had euill happe, I may eyther be counted for a Cowarde, or a Calfe. Doe not the Gods, saye the Poets, laugh at the periurie of Louers? and that Iupiter smiles at the craft of Cupyd? Paris, when he stole away Helena, and forsooke his Oenone: did not both Sea and winde fauour his enterprises with a speedy gale? Theseus had neuer better lucke, then after hee

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Mamillia.

had forsaken Ariadne: and I perchance may haue as good hap
in leauing Mamillia. He that hauing tasted of water, & after wil
not drink of wine, is of a grosse nature. The dog that winding þ
Hedgehogge, will not forsake the sent, to hunt at the Hare, is
but a Curre, and he that wil not change in loue, if he wille make
the choyce, shal not come in my Creede. Mamillia is faire, but
not second to Publia: she is wittie, but þ other more wise, where
the sauce sharpened with prunes, casteth of sugar, it is folle to
infer comparison. Yea, but what complaintes will Mamillia
make, when she perceineth thy dissembling: her hotte loue will
turne to deadly hate, shee will procure thy discredit euen with
Publia: she will blase thy forged flattery, not onely here in Pal
dua, but throughout all Italy. I shall haue Gonzaga mynt
enemy, yea, and mine owne friendes to be my foes, yea and per
happes by that meanes, both loose her friendship, and the others
fauour.

X Cuth, Pharicles, he that is afraid to venture on the Buck,
because he is wrapped in the hyper, shall neuer haue Hunters
happe, and he that puts a doubt in loue at euery chance, shall ne
uer haue Louers luck. Cannot the Cat catch mice, without she
haue a bel hanged at her eare: cannot þ Hobby seale on his pray,
but he must checke: cannot the Spaniel retorne the Partridge
but he must quest: and cannot I deale so warily, but al the world
must ring of it? yes, it is a subtil bird, that breeds among the
X aery of hawkes, and a stilly sheepe that lambes in the flocks
Denne, and he shalbe crafty shal spy mee halting. I can like Ma
millia for a neede, and loue Publia of necessitie: it is good to
X keepe a stale, for feare I catch no foule, and needefull to holde
Mamillia on the fist, leass Publia proue so haggard, she will not
come to the lure. He that hath two fishes at the baight, it is hard
if he misse both. Therefore I will be of the surer side, alwayes
X prouided, Publia shall haue my heart, and I hers: or els I wyll
sitte beside the saddle. And with that he fell in a study with him
selfe, of sundry matters pertayning to his amorous deuises, and
at last determined with himselfe, if he could find a trusty mes
senger to send her a letter, fearing if he should make his repaire so
sodely,

so dainely, it would breede some suspicion in Costinos heade, for hee that loners, castes beyonde the Moone, and especially he that dissembles: and craft had neede of cloking, where truely is euer naked.

Where, by the way, Gentlemen, we see Pharicles a perfect patterne of Louers in these our dayes, that beare two faces vnder one hoode; and haue as many Lapes as they haue wittes, and that is not a few: for every newe face must haue a newe fauour; and if hee see a thousand, they must all be viewed with a sigh, as though hee were enamoured; if she be younger, her tender age pleaseth him; if she be of middle age, the rypnesse of her yeeres contenteth him: another enchaunteth him with her voyce, and one with her gestures: so that his courteous desire would haue all, and yet amidst this store he is pyned, and dissembling doubt maketh a restraint of his choyce, yet he must needes be a Carpet Knight: for they thinke it as harde to lye without loue, as without meat. But when they beginne to like, it is a worlde to see howe they learne to lye: fauour they cannot, without flattery; nor talk without tales, they be dead at the first dash, & plunged in Plutos pitte, when they haue a thier heart the the poore maide. They say, a womā is the weaker vessel, but sure in my iudgement, it is in the strength of her body, and not in the force of her minde: for the rypest witte, the readiest heart, the moste subill skonce is fayne to sette his hapnes on the last, and his witte on the centers to deceiue a simple mayde: first he assaues with flattery, then with sophistry, inferring his comparisons, he is caught in the beames of her bewtie, as the Bee in the cobwebbe; hee is parched with the hue of her face, as the Flye in the candle; hee is drawne by the qualities of her mind, and the sweetenesse of her voyce, as with a Syrens songue, and when perhappes she hath nothing to be praysed nor to be lyked in her, yet the comlynesse of her bodye, and the rarenesse of her condicions, hath so enchaunted, as if shee heale not his wound, he shal as it were with Circes cup be turned to a hog or a horse.

And this they vse not to one, but to many, counting him a
foole

foole that cannot flatter; and a dolce, that dare not dissemble, as Pharicles an Archeaptaine of their crue presently wil prooue; who knewe the best, and followed the woozle; and could speake hotlye, but follow it as cololy.

X For after that hee had giuen the raynes of libertie to his frantike affections, and hadde fostered the sparke to growe to a great flame, the medicine then came too late, when the disease was incurable: the more he did striue, the woorse he was: euen as the Warte, which feeling the arrowe in his side, the more he forceth him selfe, the farther it entreth; or the byrde being taken in the nette, by struggling becomes faster: so hee seeking to eschewe his first maladie, fell into a deeper sicknesse, perceiving as the wounde by time is more grievous then when the blowe was freshe, so lone encreasech by delay, and delays breed daungers: fearing agayne his hastie venturing might procure a slacke speedinge, determynd to take counsell at his pyllowe, and as his minde shoulde giue him, to prosecute his purpose: and in this doubte hee remayned the space of a weeke.

In which tyme Publia seeing Pharicles made no great haste in his returne, thought her newe Louer would moue an olde scoffer, condemning her selfe of follie, that shee should bee so soone enticed by flatterie, seeking to roote out that by reason, which was inserted by sensualitie, knowing, no fitter remedie for loue, then to resist betimes, in which determination, as she should haue proceeded, she had the retrait blown by a letter, which Pharicles had sent her by his page. Likewise offering in his maysters behalfe, a present vnto Gostino, in recompence of his good cheere, which he receiuing gratefullie, wished the Page to giue it to his daughter, who taking the present, and receiuing the Letter, could scarcely stay to vntie the seale, while she came in her closet, where betweene hope and dread she read these lines followinge:

Pharicles

Pharicles to Publia.



If the Gods, Publia, hauing made man, had
 like wise giuen him free will to bee mayster
 of himselfe, in subduing his rebellious affec-
 tions, or hadde appoynted medicine for the
 minde, as Physick for the soule, I neede not
 at this time haue sought for helpe to resist the
 assaults of contrary passions, as he that after long combat for
 the defence of his libertie, is forced to yeelde by the strength of
 the Victoz, hoping by submission to obtaine the more fauour.
 But nature and fortune hath in no creature framed such a per-
 fect vnfornittie, but there is as great a contrarietie: and as many
 salues as arte hath taught, so many sores nature hath giuen, ne-
 uer suffering blisse to come without bale, nor good lucke with-
 out ill happe, finding alwayes a cooling carde of misfortune to
 pluck downy puffing peate of prosperitie. The Bee, as she hath
 the fragrant flower, wheron to take delight, so she hath the Spi-
 ders webbe wherein to be tangled. The flye, as she is reuiued
 by the heate of the Sunne, so is she consumed by the flame of
 the fire: as the Lyon cooleth his stomacke with eating the Sea-
 mouse, so is it inflamed with eating the litle Ermyne. But
 although in this respect I cannot greatly epyther accuse nature
 or fortune, yet the destinies I thinke haue framed your bewtie
 such a furious enemy to my carefull minde, as it hath made such
 a breach in my heart, that the strongest rampyre and surest de-
 fence I could make is not possible to resist the continual Alarms,
 wherewith the remembraunce of your rare vertues night and
 day doe assaile me in such wise, that since my departure I haue
 felt in my heart, as in a little world, al the passions and contra-
 rieties of the Elementes. For my eyes, Publia, I call the gods
 to witenesses, I speake without sayning, almost turne into water
 through the continuall streams of teares, and my sighes flye as
 winde in the ayre, proceeding from y flaming fire which is kind-
 led in my hart, as that without the droppes of your pittie, it wil
 turne my body into dry earth and cinders.

Mamillia.

Then, Publia, such your beautie is my bale, let it be my blyffe: couet not to vanquish him which is already captiue, strue not for my lyfe, such you haue my libertie, but let the waues of mer- cie quench the fire of fancy, and do: but render loue for loue: pra; Publia, such loue as eternitie shall neuer blot out with obliuion, neyther any sinister fortune in any wise do diminishe: so that if the world wondered at the loyaltie of Petrarch to his Laura, or Amadis to Oriane: they shall haue more cause to meruell at the loue of Pharicles to Publia, whose lyfe and death standeth in your answer, which I hope shal be such as belongeth to the desert of my loue, and the shew of your bewtie.

Yours, if he be Pharicles.



Publia hauing read ouer this Letter, view- ing and reuewing euery lyne in particular, chaunged colours at euery syllable, fearing to be foyled by flatterpe, or to be brought in- to a fooles paradise by promises: knowing that the Nyghtingale hath a sweete voyce, and yet but a rankeleshe: that the Storckes in India haue a pleasaunt cry, but a bloody byl: that the fayrest Nutte without, may haue the foulest Worme within: that the most dayntie delicacies may be sauced with deadly popson: that smooth talke and fayre promises maye haue but small perfor- mance: that wordes were but winde: that inke and paper were not sufficient pledges for such an inseperable knot: yet hope haled her on to thinke well of his offer: and that shee whiche would not trust ere she tryed, should not proue without peryll: saying that experience is the distresse of fooles, and that they which were incredulous, incurred the greatest suspicion of flat- terie: so amidst these sundry dumptes, shee tooke her penne, and sent Pharicles this dumpe.

Publia

Publia to Pharicles.



Mistr Pharicles, your Letters being more
 hastily receiued then hastily read, I stood
 in a doubt, whether I should answer with
 silence, or sophistrie: for because where the
 question is extream, there the answer must
 needes want a meane: and where the demand
 is but a iest, it is best to make replye with a
 scoffe. But at length I was resolved to write more largely then
 I would, hoping both to profit and perswade you. I protest, I
 meane, in that I spying so soone your faulting, I may behoore
 you from flatterie; and be the meanes that you leaue this folly,
 to be passionate onely in your penne, a louer but in your lippes:
 for although you thinke my simple witte hath no such capacitee
 to conceiue your haire testing, yet all women are not of one
 mettall, but as I knowe it, and beare with it: so they wil spy it,
 and boch blabbe it, and blame it: yea perhappes crosse you one
 of their creder: for he that hath beene scatched with the biter,
 will take heed of a thorne, and he that sees his fellow hurt, will
 beware of the like harme: hee that hath beene deceiued with a
 lye, will scarcely credit a true tale. Women are wily, and will
 take example one by another: so that it shall bee heard for one
 to halt before a cyprie: they thinke euery one that writes an a-
 morous stile, doth not loue faithfully: but most of them lye fals-
 ly. A picke with a penne proued not Clauel a true Louer,
 but a troathlesse Lechour: yea many write before they knowe
 the partie, and get by it they knowe not what: so that, Pharicles,
 if women would credit euery line, they would buy repentaunce
 too deare. But if Phillis were alive in these our dayes, shee
 would neuer hangt her selfe: and if Dido had beene incredu-
 lous, she had not dyed so desperately. Therefore Pharicles, if I
 doubt without cause, or feare before I haue occasion, blame me
 not, sich others haue suffered such euill hap by venturing too far
 in an vnkowne vessel.

Well, put case your flattery be fayth, and that all that you haue written is Gospel: yet you clayme kindnesse where none was offered: or els you thinke because I sayd farewell friendly, I bidd and part friendly: surely eyther you are deceiued, or els I was in a dreame at the departure: for I doe not know in what respect either my words by deedes should be a spurre to pricke you forward in this rash enterpryse: but assure your selfe, if there were any, I repent me of them, not that I am so foolish to repay hatred for love: but that I haue vowed perpetuall virginitie, and meane to vtaine chastitie for euer. Therefore Pharicles, cease to craue that cannot be gotten: seeke not for impossibilitie: quench the fire your selfe, when another cannot put out the flame: as haue the force of loue, where you cannot haue your longing.

I giue you perhappes a sower saue to your sweete meate: because I will not feede you with delayes, nor fobbe you with fayre wordes, and foule deedes: but I speak as I thinke, so you shall finde it. Yet in fine, least you should iudge me altogether huggerfull, I thank you for your good will, and I thinke well of it: and if euer I chaunge to loue, you haue as much to like as any therefore of your fauour be so fired, as you make faire oyle, pray that both my heart my turne, and my vow may be broken, and then hope well. But in the meane time, if you come, you shall be welcome, as a friend: but no farther.

Yours, if the could, Publia.



After that Pharicles, gentlemen, had receiued and read this Letter, seeing the beginning was hard, thought the ending as ill, so that beeinge somewhat chollericke, hee throw it awaye in a rage, not half read, rebuking his folly in so soon peeling vnto fauour, turning his great loue to a greivous hate, as one somewhat tickled with self loue, thinking y^e was too baggards, that would not come at the first talke, againe praysing his Mamillia, vowing to holpe his heart whomever, and promising in recompence of his disloyaltie, neuer to lend Publia a good looke, and in this determination flang out of his

study

study, and went to the house of Gonzaga's

Here gentlemen, we may see the flitting of mens fancy, and the fickleness of their saych, that they may well be compared to a blacke wal, that receiveth euerie impression, which not withstanding with the wipe of ones hand is easily defaced: so men loue all, and now none, verifing the saying of Calimachus, that as flowers fade and flourish euerie yeare, so their loue is hotte and cold euerie houre, hauing nothing certaine but onely this, that the last driueth out the first, as one maye see forceth out another: the nature of men is so desirous of noueltie. But because it is an euill dogge, barks at his fellow, againe to Pharicles, who being come into the house of Gonzaga, found not all things according to his desire: for Mamillia was halfe sick in her bed, yet she her self knew scarfly the disease: but Pharicles missing her, went farther, and found Adam Castilla sitting solitary in her chuse, whom after he had saluted and demaunded how mistres Mamillia did: Mary quoth Adam Castilla, your office repair vnto her, as farre as we can coniecture: hath driven her into a pluri sic, or vnto some ielousie: but whether it be, she is sicke.

Pharicles, feeling his good conscience prickt, said that although it pleased her to iest by contraries, yet his return was as speedy, as might be: for his busines was so necessary, that the losse of his landes hanged thereon: but if he had knowne Mamillia would haue conceived any displeasure at his absence, he would not onely haue basarded his landes, but haue ventured his life to haue made his repaire more speedy: if then her sicknesse proceedes of my negligence, I hope my sufficient excuse will be a remedy to cure the disease.

You speak wel, quoth Adam Castilla: therefore follow me, that you may plead your owne cause, for I will be no Advocate and with that she caried him into Mamillias chamber, where she lay, half sleeping, half waking, whom Adam Castilla called out of her traunce with this parole.

Mistres Mamillia, quoth she, you know whē time was, we feared this Gentleman a godly father: therefore I thought good in this your sickenes, that he should receiue your confession,

as one most meete for the purpose. I thank you for your paines,
quoth Mamillia: for indeede I haue a great block in my consci-
ence, which I meane to reueale vnto him, & that is of my folly,
in louing so lightly, and fixing my fancy, where I doubt is no
fayth: whereof, if he can giue me absolution, I shall surely bee
bound vnto him.

Goodewoman, quoth Pharicles, the blocke of your consci-
ence, as I iudge, is not so great an offence, as to accuse without
cause: for I dare venture my credit, you neuer loued lightly,
nor fancied whose fayth shall fayle, vntlesse you count absence by
necessitie a breach of loyalty: but such perhappes it is the force of
ficknelle, that procureth this talke. I care the lesse, and if there
be no worse offence behinde, my soule shall beare the charge of
this tyme.

Pharicles, quoth Mamillia, your answer hath greatly eased
my minde, and if time shall try all thinges true, it shall both race
out untruth, and breed greater credit: for surely your absence
made me thinke, that either you mislike your choyce, or els re-
pented your chauce: but now I am other wise perswaded, ho-
ping to find you as firme in your works, as fine in your words,
and that proving true, I am sure my father will be willing to
knitte by the match, as we desirous of his consent: the match I
say: for I hope your suite tends to no other end, but that linking
our selues together in the lasting knot of marriage, we may lyue
and dye in perfect amitie.

Al Mamillia, quoth Pharicles, doe you thinke, that I haue
such a trayterous heart, or such an impudent face to imagine
such trechery against your diuine betwisse? No, no, Mamillia, I
call the Gods to witness, and the heauens to heare my pro-
testations, and if my wordes be not conformable to my thoughts,
the infernal furies conspire my bitter destruction, and if my mind
remaiue not constant, and my fancy firme, the Gods themselves
be reuengers of such disloyaltie.

Well, said Mamillia, Iason promysed as much to Medea,
and yet shee founde him a lyer: but I feare no such matter.

No, me thinke, quoth Madame Castilla, I dare promise for
the

the Gentleman. But now let vs see how we can find our teeth occupied, as we haue doone our tongues, and then I will say none of vs are fallen into a consumption, through weakenesse of stomacke: so they all went to dinner.

Where I leaue you to consider, Gentlemen, how far vnmette women are to haue such reproches layd vppon them, as sundry large lipp fellows haue done: who whē they take a peece of work in hand, and either for want of matter, or lack of wit are half gruelled, then they must fill vp the page with slaundering of womē, who scarfly know what a woman is: but if I were able either by wit or arte, to be their defender, or had the law in my hand, to dispose as I list, which would be as vnseemely, as an Ass to treade the measure: yet, if it were so, I would correct Mantuas Egloge, intituled Alphus: or els if the Authour were alieue, I would not doubt to perswade him in recompence of his error, to frame a new one: for surely though Euripides in his tragedies doth greatly exclaim against that seer, yet it was in his choller, and he inferred a generall by a particular, which is absurd. He had an euill wife, what then: because the hill Canaros hath a fountayne running deadlye popson, is al water nought? shall the fire be reiected, because some one sparke fireth a whole whose? are the bodys of the flies Cantharides to be cast away, because their legges are popson? shal we condemne al women of inconstancy, because Helena was fickle: or all to be naught, because some one is a shewe: if the premises wil infer such a conclusiō, I refer me to their greatest enemy. But for feare of a farther digression, againe to thē we left at dinner, who after they had taken a suffycient repast, fell againe to their former discourse, till Gonzaga returning home, broke off their talke with his presence, entertaining Pharicles very friendly, assuring him he was as welcome as he could wish him selfe to be, which curtesie was not so heartily offred, as willingly recieued. So that it seemed if the one were content, the other was as well pleased. Yet Gonzaga being as wily as Pharicles was wittie, desirous to smell the vane of the young Gentleman, crayned his hooke with this bayte.

Pharicles, quoth he, the old Fox that cannot spy the fetch of the young one, was neuer crafty himself: the Goose that cannot see

Mamillia.

The Gosling winke, may seeme to haue a defect of nature: he that cannot see fire in straw, is surely stone blind: and hee that cannot spy the flame of fancy, is but a foole. There is none wil so soone spy one halting, as a cripple: it is hard to couer smoke, but more hard to conceale loue. I my self both haue tryed it, and nowe I likewise finde the prooofe of it in you, who as closely as you keepe your cloke, yet I spy the lining, for loue kept in secret is like the spark couered with ashes, which at lengch bursteth into a great flame. But if it be as I thinke, I am glad of it. As I haue taken care Pharicles, to haue my daughter keep her virginity inuolac without spot of suspitiousnes, so would I be as willing to peeble the fruits of her chastity into the hands of some gentleman, whom she might both like for loue, & think wel off for his birth & honesty, rather wishing with Themistocles to marrye my daughter to a man, the to money: desiring likewise his choice to be for her goodnesse, and not for her goodes, least if the knotte should be knit for wealch, it might be disseuered for pouerty. Licurgus would haue no dowries to be giuen with maides, least some should be liked for riches, and others loathed for want. The maides of Essene went neuer bare faced, untill they were maried, least bewty should bee of more force then honesty, esteeming her which was honest, neyther to haue want of nature, nor lack of nurture: So that Pharicles, I hope if you choose, it shal not be for wealch, which is vantiety; nor for bewty, which is momentary (although I thank God he can neither blame nature nor fortune) but onely for vertue which is permanent: for where the cause is durable, there the effect must needes be lasting, Loue ought to be like the stone Armenicke, which is hardly inflamed, but once set on fire, is neuer quenched: like the Emerauld, which being imprinted, neuer changeth forme without breaking. Surely, Pharicles, I speake these wordes to you as a friende, and to Mamillia, as a father, wishing well to you for good lyking, and to her by course of kinde: being willing to marry my daughter, but neyther to buy her an husband, nor to set her to sale, vnesse the price bee loue, I mean that I would not make the match by entreatie, nor seeme to consence lygbtlye, least haste shoulde make waste.

Therefore, Pharicles, although I speake largely, thinke not
my

my consent is any profer. For others of great birth, and no small wealth (I will make no comparisons) haue both made great suite, and offered large feoffmentes to haue my good wyll: yet sith Mamillia did not loue, I did not lyke; and what shee doeth nowe, I am not priuey to it: but if shee doe, my minde perhappes may bee chaunged: for you knowe olde men are verpe suspicious, and I my selfe doubt by the dreade of others, wee are colde of complexion, and therefore fearefull by nature, and will quicklye spy a padder in the strawe, and a snake in the grasse, I perhappes thinke the Moone is ecclipsed, when she is but chaunging; & gesse loue is lust, when it is loyaltie, falshood to bee sayd, and truethe to be treason, iudging vpon meat with a sicke stomacke, and casting wine with a furred tongue; construing al thinges by contraries, through the imbecillitie of our witte: sith euery thing is the worse for wearing: so y he which wil court an old mans daughter, may be curteous, & yet thought curpous; his liberality may be thought prodigalitie; his cleaunynesse, pride and vnchristinesse, that, walke as warilye as you can, the olde doer will suspect him.

Pharicles, I speake against mine owne age, and confesse the frailtie of my nature, that if you chauce to finde the lyke faulte in me, that you impute it not to peeuishnesse, but to course of kinde: For you, Pharicles, professe loue to my daughter, and I thinke it is but dissimulation: you faigne faith, and I doubt of flattery; you seeme to offend in excesse, and I feare you faint in defect, I feare more then you can forge, and all little ynough in my iudgement. For you, young gentlemen, nowadayes lyke without loue, and lust without lyking: you fancy euery face, and ech sundry moneth you must haue a new mistresse, wooing as you think, with great witte, and at length proues without wil dome, so that as the seede is subtiltie, and the fruite folly, the haruest can reape but little honesty. Pharicles, I inferte no particulars, I told you my faulte, and therefore blame me not, if I cannot digresse from nature, but speake what I thinke: for if your conscience be cleare, it doeth not touch you; if it bee not, I am glad I haue spoken so much, that eyther you may amende, or els make an ende: for if my sight sayle me not, one you must doe.

Pharicles being rubb on his gald backe, thought Gonzaga was

Mamillia.

a subtil for, and needed not to learne his occupation, and that he could see the Gossling wink, being broad waking; but as young wittes are rash, so they are ready; and can sinell a tale beefore it be half tolde: for Pharicles found his fetch at the first word, & therefore intending to be as wily, as he was wise, gaue false fire to his prece, thereby to blinde Gonzagas eyes, as warily as hee could looke and to winke, and yet not be spied on this manner.

Sir, quoth he, as it is hard to hide the smoake, so were he a foole that would goe about to couer it, and if fancy must needes be spied, who would seeke to cloake it: nature cannot be restrained, nor loue kept in secret: for the one will come to his course, and the other seeme light amidst the darknes. I knowing this, (although you mistake me) neuer thought to loue where I might not come lawfully, nor to like, where eyther the person or place should haue neede of a bale for Sunne burning: as for my selfe, I neede none: therefore, sir, if I halt, it is outright, that more maye perceiue it then a cryple. But I hope, iudge what you will, you shal find me stand to my tackling, and to take my course so well by my compassse, that I shal proue a cunning Pilot, and to shew my selfe so chary in my choyse, what wares I chuse, that I shal bee a good Chapman, and the better I trust, in that I haue your counsel. The Lyons whelp taketh euer the fattest sheepe, when the old sire is by: the fawne neuer makes so good choyse of his feede, as the old Bucke; age speaketh by experience, and liketh by tryall, youth leaneth vpon wit, which is voyd of wisdom. Where the old Faulcon sealeth, there is euer the best pray: therefore he that will not be ruled by age, shal be deceived by youth, and hee that will not heare the admonition of a friend, shal perhaps feelee the correction of a foe. This causeth me to thank your counsel, although I was determined beefore, for I neuer meant to loue without lasting, nor fancy for a time, least I my self might be the first should repent it, but was fully resolved to lay my foundation vpon such a rock, as neither the earthquakes of dissention, nor the tempests of trouble may once be able to moue. Now I know wel ynough, & hee that chooseth the carnation for colour, should find it to haue lesse vertue then the black violet; & the fading blossoms are more delectable to the sight, then the lasting fruite; that the painters colours which
are

are most bright, will soonest loose their glose; & nothing so soone stayneth, as cloath of lighte colour; and nothing to be lesse permanent, then the glasse of bewtie, which beginneth to decay in the budde, to wither in the blossome, and if it commeth to be fruite, is rotten before it be halfe ripe. The loue of bewtie, saith Anacreon is the forgetting of reason, the enemy to wit, and to be counted in-deeue a short frensie: for he that loueth onely for bewty, will eyther loath when age approcheth, or else soone be glutted with plentie: wheras fancy fixed vpon vertue, encreaseth euer by continuance. Or y putteth the Adder in his bosome, delighted with her golden skin, is worthy to be enuened: the mouse, if she feede vpon rose-alger for the glistering hue, deserueth to be popsoned: if the fishe will needes to the baight, because it is of fyes in Catabria, it is her own folly if she be taken: the bird that cometh to the glasse, enticed by the brightnes, deserueth the net: he y will choose a fayre face with euil conditions, claymeth by right to be counted a foole. Gateline had not so much pleasure in the bewtie of Oristilla, as he reaped sorow by her outrageous crueltie, nor won so much credit by her comelines, as Brutus did of his wife Porcia for her curtesie. The husband of Sempronia for al her faire face, had a wife of whom it was in question, whether she were more prodigall of her purse, or liberal of her honestie, that I am sure he would haue made a chang with Gracchus for his black wife Cornelia. Menelaus, who had that earthly Goddess Helena, reaped for euery feede of pleasure, a whole haruest of sorow, contented to become Captaine of Cornetto, & for her comlynes to haue her almost common, being as infortunace in his choyce, as Glitio Gallus was happy in his chance, by wedding Egnatia Maximilla: so that he which maketh choyce of bewty without vertue commits as much folly as Critius did, in choosling a golden boxe filled with rotten bones. Therefore fearing the fetters by the captiuitie of the bond-man, was euer careful to like for the proportion of the body, and loue for the qualities of the minde, neuer meaning to make a rusty rapier my rampire of defence, though it haue a veluet scabbarde; nor my choyce of any euil woman, be she neuer so proper of persō, hauing preeuish conditions: least for euery ynch of ioy, I catch an ell of annoy, and for euery drop of delight, a whole draught of de-
X

Mamillia.

spight. This, I say, was the cause, Gonzaga, that forced me to re-
paire vnto your daughter, because the same of her exquisit perfec-
tion by nature plentifully placed in her, hath rauished euen her e-
nimies hearts to loue & like her: her grauity in gestures, her mo-
desty in manners, her curtesie in conuersation, chalenged my ly-
bertie and wonne my heart her own for euer. It was not the co-
lour in her cheekes, but the conditions of her mind; not her come-
linesse, but her curtesie, not her person, but her perfection that in-
chaunted me. But why doe I seeke to try my selfe loyall, when
the hearers doe deeme me a lyar? why doe I bring in reasons to
proue my troath, when my wordes can haue no trust, or to debate
the matter, when they thinke it dalliance? well sir, I cannot let
you to think: but if I daly, it is in dolour; if I sport, it is in spight;
if I iest, it is without ioy; and so tract of tyme shall try it. You ap-
ply this mistrust to your age, and suspicion to your old brain: sure
you maye doe so: for I call the Gods to witnesses that the wordes
which I speake, and the loue I protest to Mamillia is verytie
without vanity, trueth without trifling: sayth without flattery, as
fine within, as sayre without, a siluer sheath with a golden dagger,
and in token she shal haue both lands and life, hand and heart, as
her own for euer.

Gonzaga hearing the solempne protestation of the gentleman,
being as credulous as suspicious, thought, what the heart did
think, the tongue would clinck: and that his filed speech was with-
out fayning, and his sweete talke without sower tales, gaue him
his hand, that he was as glad to haue him to his sonne, as he desi-
rous of such a father, and that he conceaued a great contentation
of minde, that he found so fitte a match for his daughter: so that af-
ter many pleasaunt parlees on both sides, they were fully betro-
thed together. Pharicles promising the next spring to consummat
the marryage, and Gonzaga prouiding a courtly banquet to leale
vp y^e matter. Which being ended, Pharicles after many amiable
lookes and sweete kisses, gaue her the curteous conge, and depar-
ted to his lodging no lesse contented, then if he had obtained Cre-
sus welch, Alexanders empire, or any treasure that fortune could
assigne vnto him.

But the Sunne being at the highest, declyneth; the Sea, bee-
ing

ing at full tide, ebbeth; calme continueth not long without a
 storme; neyther is happynesse had long without heauines, blyſſe
 without bale, weale without woe, as by this new betrothed cou-
 ple may be ſeene, who now flowing in floudes of felicity are by
 the falſhood of Pharicles ſouſed in the ſeas of ſorrow, exalted to
 the hyeſt degree of happines, are driuen to the greateſt extremitie
 of euill, alate placed in paradise, and now plunged in perplexi-
 tie: for he no ſooner entred his ſtudy, but eſpying the cruell letter
 of his mercileſſe miſtreſſe Publia, fryng in fury, burning in rage
 and turning his wooſted loue to a preſent hate, euen as the dog
 which byteth the ſtone; or the Boze that in chace teareth the trees;
 ſo he in reuenge of his choller, thought to read ouer this Letter
 more for ſpight then for pleaſure, more for lothing then for loue.
 But as the birde, when ſhee is moſte careleſſe is caught of the
 fowler, ſo Pharicles reading in ieſt, found good earneſt; and was
 ſo caught in the hay, and taken with the coyles, that his fancy was
 fettered with a new charme, and his minde ſo amazed with this
 new muſing, that he beſtowed all the night in examining particu-
 larly euery line of her letter. And though the firſt part was ſharp
 and rigorous, yet he found the laſt to be mixed with mettall of more
 mild matter, reading it ouer a thouſande tymes, blaming his na-
 ture, and condemning his choler in being ſo raſh to reſuſe meate
 at the firſt taſte, to reiect the Dreuge, becauſe the pill was ſower;
 to diſallow the loue of Publia, becauſe ſhe made chary of her cha-
 ſtitie, his new plighted troath was almoſt wauering, and waping
 at the firſt aſſault his feigned fancy, almoſt eclipsed through fa-
 ding folly, inſomuch that the hope of his newe luſte, had almoſte
 quenched the ſhew of his newe loue; the freendlye concluſion of
 Publia, had well nigh raced out his fayth to Mamillia; the deſire
 of his fond affectiō ſo blinded his vnderſtanding, þ he paſſed not to
 peruert both humane & diuine lawes: for the accōpliſhmēt ther of:
 no rules of reaſon, no feare of lawes, no pyckes of conſcience, no
 reſpect of honeſty, no regard of God or man, could prohibit him
 frō his peſtiferous purpoſe: for if lawes had bin of force, he knew
 his deede was contrary to al lawes, in violating his ſacred oath: if
 conſcience, he knew it terrible: if honeſty, he knew it moſt wicked:
 if God or man, he knew it abhominable in the ſight of both.

Mamillia.

But too true it is, y^e the force of loue, may rather y^e fury of lust, doth neither care for kith nor kin, friend nor foe, God nor the diuell, as this faithlesse Pharicles wil proue: who hauing shyned his heart by solemn promises in the bulwark of Mamillias' bountye, yeelded with a fresh Alarm, giuen by the remembrance of Publias bewtie, shewing y^e the cat wil to kinde: that the wolfe wil be a deuourer; the fox willy, & men deceitful: for nature must haue his course, their loue is neuer guided by reason, but by rage: nor their fancy by faith, but by fury: they burn in outward shape as hot as Aetna, where their meere substance is as cold as Caucasus: their promises are loyal, but the performance lasciuious: they import feruent affection, but it proueth fleshly fancy: they are so giuē vnto guiles, framed to forswearing, prone vnto perjury, wedded vnto wickednes, & bowed vnto vanitie, that to say what I think, the most trusty louier, that they make most account of, if he were thoroughly sifted, would shrink in the wetting, & proue a leud leachour: so that shee which yeeldeth her self vnder y^e courteous countenance of an iniurious man, is commonly so wrapped in the waues of willes, y^e she is drowned at y^e length in the depth of deceit, & hardly escaped with the losse of his libertie, vntlesse they smell them betimes: which is hard to doe: for in their wooing, they counterfeite simplicitie, and in their wedding they shewe their subtiltie, while they are suetors, they are saints: but being sold, they are serpents: they wil beare a painted sheath, with a rusty blade: a faire blossom, but rotten fruit: & Doves they wil needes be, when indeede they be diuels. But againe to our Gentleman, whose careful minde was so tossed with the tempests of contrary cogitations, that as the vessell boyn with the tyde against the wind feeleth dubble force, and is compelled to yeelde to winde and waue: so Pharicles driuen by the force of lust, against the lawes of loue, felt dubble dolour, and was so diuersly tormented, that he fel into these tearmes.

Of al euil, which either God or nature hath layed vpon man, there is noone so great, but either reason may redres, pleasure assuage, or mirth mitigate, hearbes heale, or by some meanes or other be cured: Loue only excepted, whose furious force is so full of rancoz, that phisick can in no respect preuaile to helpe the patient, deseruing not y^e name of a disease, but of an incurable mischief:

*Es m
and
es m
iaht.*

yet importing such a show of goodnes; that it so inflameth our de-
 sire to purchase it; & we wil not care to buy it at an vnreasonable
 rate: Which loue hath take such deep roote in me, as neither reason
 can rule, nor wisdom wies; it is so rancled with rage, & infected
 with fraticke folly, frantick I may wel term it, such it is so light; as
 it seemeth to come without liking; so momentary, as it sheweth no
 modesty: so vncoustant, & it hath no one sort of continuance: so di-
 uers, as it may well be called diuellsish, more brittle then a broken
 glas; more wauering then & weathercock; more variable in thought
 then & Camelion in hue: more changable in deede then the nightin-
 gale in voyce: now liking, now loathing; now fire, now frost: colde
 before I am hot: & hot at the first dash. O fickle loue, fraught with
 frailty. O traitterous hart full of trechery. O cursed conscience, al-
 together careless. O miserable wretch wrapped in wickednes:
 shal I requit & liberal loue of Mamillia with such disloyalty, re-
 turning as & dog to my vomit in liking Publia? shal I deceiue &
 opitib; that both she & her father conceaued in me, with such dete-
 stable villany? shal I return & trust they put in me, with such trea-
 sery? shal I defile my faith towards her with such forged falsehood?
 shal I be so new fangle: to leaue & one so lewdly, & loue the other
 so lightly? It is a comon saying, that chang is seldom made for the
 better; & he is a foole, they say, that will buy & pig in the poke: or
 wed a wife without trial: or settle loue without time. What a mad-
 nes were it then, to make such an ill market, to chop & change, and
 lose by & losse: to refuse Mamillia without reason, & chuse Publia
 without trial: to reiect assurance for incertainty: to forsake hope,
 where I may satisfie my self with trust: to venture vpon one, of
 whom I haue had no proof (but if there be so much) a little trifling
 loue: Al, those whelps are euer blind, that dogs beget in haste: &
 seed too timely sown hath euer smal increase: he that leaps before
 he looke, may hap to light in & ditch: he that settles his affection in
 such speed, as he makes his choyce without discretio: for his hasty
 choosing, may perchance get a heauy bargain. Tush, he that seekes
 to restrain loue, kicks againe the prick: he stops & stream, & beates
 the fire downward, he wil make necessity to haue a law, & cause
 Balams Asse to speak: for loue is aboue king or keisar, & orde or
 lawes, yea euen aboue & Gods theselues: if it be then so stronge;

Mamillia

Why is it not then more steadfast? if it be so forcible, why is it not
 fixed: perhaps so it is in al sauing me: I am y^e od person, I am that
 one particular, on whom Cupid will shew his craft, & decipher his
 nature: in whom al the contrarieties of loue wil work their con-
 trary passions, on whom Venus will vaunt for her vaine bassall,
 as one ready to strike at euery stale, to come at euery cal, to light
 on euery lure, yea, and almost scale on the emptie fistle, neyther
 regarding the ware, nor the price: but leauing the forte for the
 first assaulte of fancye. Oh Gods, how foolishly doe I fable: how
 my talke enforced by rage, is altogether without reason? can I
 strue agaynst that which is styred by the Starres? can I per-
 uert that which is placed by the Planettes? can I driue out that,
 which is decreed by the destinies: or shewe force in that, which
 is fixed by the fates? No, no, Pharicles, assure thy selfe, this thy
 chaunge is by the charge of the Gods, and thy newe lyking to
 some greater ende: perhappes they will preuent by the meanes
 of Publia some greate inconuenience, which should light vpon
 thee in matching with Mamillia. Aeneas, had he not settled his
 minde vpon Dido? yea, and celebrated the rites of matrimony: &
 was hee not warned by the Gods in a dreame, to falsifie his sayth,
 & lay his loue vpon Lavinia? who did more for Iason the Medea?
 yet hee was driuen by the destinies to forsake her, and fixe his
 fancy vpon Creusa to whome he was constant to the ende: & of
 Theseus, by the admonition of Bacchus, left Ariadne, and was
 forced by the fates to fancy Phechia, with whome hee remayned
 as loyall, as light vnto the other: so perhaps I am forced by na-
 ture and destinie to loth Mamillia, and like Publia: and if it bee
 so, all is well: for Aristotle saith, that nature nor fate neuer
 framed any thing amisse: and though I offend in lyking the one
 lightly, yet I wil make amends in louing the other more firmly: if
 the world shal wonder at my faining to the one, they shal meruail
 as much at my sayth to the other: if abimen talk of my trechery to
 Mamillia, they shal speak as much of my troath to Publia. Now
 haue I surely settled my self, neuer frō hence forth to lend a louing
 looke to Mamillia. Publia shalbe the planet, wherby to direct my
 doings: she shalbe the star, shal guid my compass: she shal be the ha-
 uen, to harbor in: the saint at whose shryne I meane to offer my de-
 uotion.

I will now put all feare aside: for a faim hart was neuer fauoured of fortune: the coward that feareth y crack of the canon, will neuer proue a couragious captaine; nor haunt himselfe of victorie: the dastard that dreads the noyse of the drum, will neuer come in the skirmish, nor were y flag of triumph: the louer that beareth such a calme conscience, as for feare of his credit, dare not match vnder the dissembling standards of Cupids camp, shal neuer be proclaimed heire apparat to Venus kingdome. Therfore sith I haue settled & decreed, I will make no delay, for feare the grasse be cut from vnder my feet: but either by words or writing send an answer to my new mistress: and with that he tooke his pen, and sent her this Letter.

Pharicles to Publia.

The phisician, mistress Publia, y letteth the sicke patient blood for the Plurisie, when tracte of tyme hath made the disease incurable, defendeth the walles when the Citty is ouerrunne: salues seldome helpe an ouerlonge suffered soze: it is too late to bring the ruine of battery, when the wals are already broken: that shouer cometh out of time; when the corne is ripe: & too late it is to disloge loue out of ones breast, when it hath before infected euery part of the body. The surgiou, when the festring fistuloe hath by long continuance made the sound flesh rotten, can neither with le-maine plaisters, nor cutting-corsiaues be cured: so loue traucth but only time to bring the body & mind to bondage. So your seemely self seeing me fettered in y chain of fancy, & fast bound in the bands of your bewey, haue sent me pills of hard digestiō, to allwaage y force of my loue, & mitigate the firmnes of my fancy: but as the byting of a viper ranckleth & ragech, til he hath brought the body bitte to baine, so the sigh of your coely perſon hath so pearced euery vaine in the string of loue, y neither the sowernes of the sauce, nor sharpnes of the salue, can in any wise preuaile: onely the milde medicine of your mercy may salue the soze, & cut away the cause of my careful disease. With therfore mistress Publia, it is in your power either to exalt me to y highest degree of happines, or driue me down to the deepest bottom of bitter bale: to place me in the princely pallace of earthly paradise, or plunge me in the pit of perplexity: way my cause equally in the scales of honesty & equity, & peeld me but according vnto iustice, which am a careful client at bewties bar: that is, to giue according to my desert, and the desert of loue, is loue a-

Mamillia.

gain. And although the shortnes of time hath made no triall to procure any great trust, yet I hope the clearnes of my conscience in that case, & the firmnes of my faith, will in time force the truth to flame bright, amidst the darkest mists of distrust: & againe the scaling sighes & piteous plaints & prayers that I haue powred out to the Gods, that they might chang your hart & settled bow of chastitie, I hope when they shal take effect, that they wil be witnesses of my good wil. For since the receit of your letters, if my words can not be taken for witnesses, yet the prayers, processions, pilgrimages, offers & bowes that I haue made vnto the Gods, if they graunt my petition, wil testifie the ioy I conceiued in the courteous clause of your letters, although I was almost foundred for fear, couered with care, & daunted with dread, at the rigorous sight of your first lines. But as I was neuer of that minde, to count him a courageous captain, that at the first shot of the canon would yeeld the keyes of the citie: so was I euer in that opinion, that the more harde the combat were, the more haughty wer the conquest: the more doubtful the fight, the more worthy the victory: & more paine I should take about the battell, the more pleasure to win the bulwark of your chastitie: which if I should obtain, I would count it a more rich prize, then euer Scipio, or any of the nine worthy won by conquest. And these words be veritie, & not bantery: trooth, & not trifling: I appeale to your good grace and fauour, minding to be tried by your curtesie, abiding either the sentence of consent vnto life, or vnto vnco death. I am, &c. Yours euen after death, Pharielles.

PUBLIA hauing receiued this letter, perceiuing the constant minde of this young gentleman, by rubbing afresh her half healed sores, with the remembrance of his person, & image of his perfections, framing in her mind a true our of his modesty, & as it were viewing in a glas the feature of his face, the comelines of his corps, the beauty of his body, & at the vertues so abundantly bestowed vpon him by nature, had such a new alarm given her by leue, that the glowing coles turned to flashing flames: her fleeting fancy, to firme affection: her lingering liking, to loyal loue: as now she felt the furious sight of contrary passions in her tender hart, expressing the heat, which was kindled within her in these scaling carmies.

Alas, quoth she, how hath nature or dayned by her prudent policy
in such a, not to be trusted, and yet, such a way of making, that

that no creature under heauen, but if he hath one commodity im-
 parted vpon him, he hath an other inconueniencie, as well incide
 vnto him, & especially mankinde: who for euery moment of mirth,
 hath annexed a month of misery: for euery proud puff of prosperi-
 tie, some sower sops of aduersitie: for euery mite of happinesse, a
 thousand chips of ill chauce: for euery dram of felicity, a whole she-
 we of the wofull fortune: & when the sun of good success shinerh most
 cleerely, then comes the cloudes of care, & mists of mischief, when
 they are most vnlooked for: so þat I perceiue it is so comon, as true,
 how amongst humane thinges, nothing is stable in one state. The
 lark, when she is most carelesse, & mounteth most highest vnto the
 sky, with cheereful notes, is then seized on by the hawk: & a womā
 walking in the wide fields of freedō, & large leaze of liberty, secure
 from care, is then soonest caught twp linkes of loue, & fotters of
 fancy, restrained with a straighe band of bondage, wherin nature &
 fortune hath also most vnequally provided: for þat most tender tree is
 euer laden wth the most fruit, & the smallest stalk hath euer þe grea-
 test corn: the weakest wit & youngest peeces, whō noither experi-
 ence nor age hath taught any skil, are forced to bear the load of
 burde of loue: whereas riper perregate felos or neuer troubled: so
 that the weakest is euer driuen to the wal: & they that worst may
 holde be eadde, which procureth the greater pain: for as the young
 colt, at the first breaking snuffles at the snaffle, & thinks þat bit bi-
 ter: so the poke of blotte seemeth more heauy vnto anee, because I
 neuer felt the force of it before. But what need I make this ex-
 citation against fortune, sith I am not the first, nor shal not be the last
 whō the frautick frensie of fluttering fancy hath with more wrong,
 & greater damage pitiouly oppressed, þan wch I see & cry it by ex-
 perience, þat there is no fish so fleeting, but wil come to the baite: no
 doe so wilde, but wil stand at the gaze: no hawk so haggard, but
 wil stoup at the lure: no Diuelle so damage, but wil be restrained to
 the limes: no fruit so fine, but the caterpiller wil consume it: no ad-
 amant so hard, but wil peele to the file: no metal so strong, but wil
 bend at the stamp: no maid so free, but loue will bring her to be-
 dage & chaldō: & so I call it bondage, fond foole, to be bound vnto
 bewey, if I be a slave, yet shal I be subiect vnto vertue, is it thal-
 doe to liue in leaguer with him, who wil like me in my pouch, and
 loue me in mine age: in whom I shal find nothing, but only plea-

sure & contentation, what will be the haue of my happines, wherein I
may rest, & the power of my prosperitie, to defend me fro the repels
of froward fortune, & shrowd me fro y bitter blasts of bale? Shall
I repent me, sith my bargain is good, or complain of the losse of li
berty, sith I haue made a chang for a more worthy thing? Shall I
grudge when the gods are agreed, or defer it, sith y destinies driue
it, or frown, sith my fortune frames it? no, Pharicles is my saint, &
him wil I serue: he is my ioy, & him will I enioy: he hath laid the
siege, & he shal sack y citie: he hath abod the batterry, & he shal haue
the bulwark of my breast: he hath fought the combat, & he shall be
victor in the conquest: for I cannot be so vnnaturall to reward his
loue with lachring, so wout reaso to defraud him of his right, so di
uelish, for his deepe desire, to giue him a dolful dish of despair. No,
no, I haue settled with my self, y if euer I marry, Pharicles shalbe
the man I wil match with: & therfore, as I haue diuine him with de
lites, & fed him w folly: so now I wil send him a settled answer of
my goodwill & fauour: as I haue giue him cutting corasives, so I
wil sed him cōfects of comfort: as I haue bin fearful to shew my
liking for y better wiat, so now wil I be bold to shew my loue in ro
ke of a sure trust. But Publia, be not too foward, for fear he mis
construe thy meaning, or think sinisterly of thy light consent, least
thy proffered goodwill proue not halfe worth the wearing. Doth
not Pharicles say himself, that where the conquest is doubtful, the
vicory is most to be counted? y castle that hath longest batterry, is
thought the richer booty: are not those pearles which are scarfly
found, & hardly gotten ouer of the greatest value? the spice, which y
marchant through raging rockes and perillous seas bringeth
home, hath a sweeter taste, then that which is easily gotten, hardly
come by, warily kept. The maid that by long suit & much trauaile
is obtained, by how much the more she was hard in the getting, by
so much the more she wil be sweet in the wearing: she, which in her
virginity is chary of her chastity, in her marriage wil be as wary of
her honesty: therefore I wil send Pharicles such a potion, as shal be
sower in the mouth, & sweet in the maw, sharpe in eating, & plesac
in digesting. And with that she sent him a letter, to this effect.

Publia to Pharicles.

It is hard M. Pharicles to purchase credit by the praise of any
thing, w either defect of nature, or want of arte do blemish: & as
impossible it is to be beleagued wout sufficient witness, wher either
the person

son of cause both make the plea imperfect: for praise in anything un-
 worthy, is a manifest sign of flattery. Who would think he spake in
 earnest, which extolled the crow for her colour: the hare, to be harpe:
 y^e moulde, for her sight: the dolphin, for his straight back: sith lack
 of such perfection in the, condēnes the praiser for a parasite? I, there-
 fore knowing in my self no desert to drive you to such deep desire
 as you profes, and the harder induced to beleue your words: be-
 cause y^e meane of my bewty merits no such praise, as you attribut
 vnto it, it procureth lesse credit to your talk, so that I take the for
 words of course, rather the for tales of truth, thinking & fearing to
 find in y^e fairest rose, a foule canker: & in finest sperch, foulest fal-
 shood. It is giue to y^e wolf by nature, to be cruel: to the lion, to be
 fierce: to the fox, subtilnes: & as wel it is ingrafted in man, both by
 nature & educatiō, to be dissēbling: so y^e it is a settled sēte amōgst
 the: he y^e cānot dissēble, cānot liue: & he that cannot to a fewe fild
 words bring a maide into a foolcs paradise, cannot loue. These
 things, & these fained flatteries of men considered, Pharicles, in
 the smal acquaintance I haue with you, might iustly drive me into
 the deep den of distrust, & almost sink me in the surging seas of sus-
 pition: but y^e the secret goodwill to I haue borne you long time,
 wil neither suffer me to conceaue such distrust, nor to conceale any
 longer y^e fire of my fancy, but must of necessity giue place, wher y^e
 flam bursteth forth by force. Think therefore Pharicles, y^e the sower
 sauce I set you, was to cast your stomach: that the salues of suspere
 was to searce the sores of dissimulation: y^e the taints of distrust was
 to feel the depth of the wound: that my denial was for the greater
 trial: that my straitnes in words was no strāgnes in mind, but to
 try the truth of your goodwill: for if the sower taste of my talk had
 quatted your stomach, I wold haue thought it altogether queasy: if
 the salues of suspect had soled the sore but a smal blain: if the taints
 had tried the wound full of dead flesh: or if one daūt of denial had eas-
 sed your courage, & proued you as crauely a coward, as y^e vētrous
 knight, y^e finding the first encounter cōuersō, giueth ouer the quest:
 the might I wel haue thought your loue light, your fancy fickle,
 your faith fading, as il to be liked, & worse to be blamed, then the
 hound, which at the first default giueth ouer the chase: but sith you
 stood to your tackling amidst the deepest waues of denial, & neuer
 shak for al the shewes of repulsiō, assure your self, you haue gai-
 ned one in lieu of your trauel, whose faith & fācy is so fixed vpon

your person and vertue; as no mist of misery shal ever be able to move: but vowes to be constant unto the end, requesting in recompence of this my goodwill, but onely sincere love and loyalty, wishing your presence as speedy, as may be.

Thine, if the fates forswear it, Publia.

After that Pharicles had read this friendly letter of Publia, perceiving by the same whom he served had heard his prayers, & that his goddesse had giue him as happy an oracle, as he could wish, where before he lay in the seas of suspicious doubt: now he cast ancre in the haven of hope, where, at the first, he was fretted with feare, now at the last he was fortified wth assurance, as he determined to raise out the memory of Mamillia forever, & to remaine constant unto Publia. Which determination we may note the fleeting fancy of such foolish fondlings, as will be lovers, but forlost, & amorous without honesty: they at a more like horse couriers, which love to chop & change, & oftentimes live by the losse, then like courtly gentlemen, should be so chary of their choice, as they should never like to be lastingly. But let their love be never so light, & their faith never so firme, yet they will be counted all a vanity, if they may cloak their vanity, or be taken for truth: if prayers, protestations & pilgrimages might be yet fountaine of promises, then the maid should haue mountaines, & hath but mole hills: treasure, that hath but trash: faith, & hath but flattery: truth, that hath but trifles: yea, should injoy a trusty lover, & is glad of a troathlesse lecher. Pharicles could promise as much as most, but performe as little as any: & vow as much constancy as Leander, but move as fickle as Aeneas: yea, his fancy was not halfe fixed, before it began to fade: nor halfe settled, before it began to slide: for he was not well scorched wth the bewty of Mamillia, before he was enamored wth the person of Publia: now liking, now loathing, as the sick patient, whose stomack is but quaffer: yet as the wind after often changing remaineth long in one quarter: so Pharicles, in amends of his fleeting fancy towards Mamillia, determined to be alwaies constant with Publia. Which determination had such euill successe, as was the cause of his exile: for after he knew Mamillia heard of his dissolving, he coueied himselfe closely into Sicillia, traueling forth in his iourney, pilgrim like: but where his intet was to remaine, no man knewe. But as soone as I shal either hear, or learn of his aboad, looke for newes by a speedy post.

Robert Greene.

